

ALBANY • EL CERRITO • KENSINGTON

THE JOURNAL

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Dave Greer Popular 30-year Albany police veteran plans to retire [A5]

Arts Lively farce 'There Goes the Bride' at CCCT [C3]

Albany ups participation in Codornices Creek project

By Clare Curley
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The city has boosted its contributions to completing an evaluation of design alternatives for lower Codornices Creek, the first step in restoring the only healthy creek left in town.

The public draft report of restoration suggestions and they would affect the surrounding area is expected to come out in late February. At that time, copies will be made available to the public and meetings will be scheduled for local input.

Council members have agreed to put \$41,500 towards the study, an amount that was bumped up from \$35,000

last week.

The study is part of a three-way agreement between the University of California and the cities of Berkeley and Albany.

The funds are paying for the Waterways Restoration Institute (WRI) to conduct a hydrology study, and a creek restoration design.

The study will cost a total of \$91,000, meaning Albany is paying half the cost of a study being conducted by all three entities.

In addition, Albany's proposed revisions to the creek amount to a total contract amount of \$124,500.

Following some discussion, it was decided that a sin-

gle restoration design would be developed with two phases.

The first phase outlines the relocation of certain structures that impede the restoration effort, such as the UC Berkeley maintenance building.

The next phase will look at how to deal with the presence of the 1960s university housing, located between Fifth and Sixth streets.

Codornices lies hidden on the Berkeley-Albany border, marked from the street only by a chain link fence near the University Village family housing units.

The university owns most of the creek's north bank along its lower stretch. Some Berkeley officials are wor-

ried over Cal's plans for the creek, which runs close by university facilities that could complicate restoration.

In December of 1999, the Albany City Council authorized the city administrator to enter into the agreement.

Shortly afterwards, the university contracted WRI, which completed a working draft of the study last June. The draft has since been revised by all three entities.

The original draft included two design alternatives that differed by the amount of right-of-way required for implementation.

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DANCERS WITH Gamelan Sekar Jaya rehearse in a warehouse in Alameda Tuesday night.

JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

Groupe brings Bali legend to Cal stage

By Clare Curley
STAFF WRITER

finding rehearsal space for the member cast of Gamelan Sekar Jaya was no easy task, so mem-

bers were relieved to finally locate a vacant warehouse in Alameda.

Set off by gates and an excessively gravelly road, the warehouse the El Cerrito-based group is using as a studio is adjacent to an old shipyard and winery.

The ad-hoc practice room could hardly be what the visiting guest artists are used to in Bali. With no heating to speak of, members brought in a few small heat lamps to

take the edge off the cold, and buckets were placed on the floor to catch rain from a leaky roof.

On a recent chilly evening, layered members practiced the timing of lights and sound. An older Balinese woman gestured, polishing the performance of two young visiting dancers. Some dancers remained bundled up in a nearby room, while others stood outside for a clove cigarette break.

The running joke was "Balinese dance comes to Alaska."

"We wanted to find a place the same size as Zellerbach," said project director Wayne Vitale, one of the group's founding members.

Despite the surroundings, the girls launched into a graceful, otherworldly dance using exotic, sometimes abrupt movements.

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JOANNA JHANDA/STAFF

DANCERS FROM Bali, Ida Ayu Cahya Sugiantari, left, and Ni Luh Putu Adnyani Utami, right, rehearse Tuesday with Gamelan Sekar Jaya

Developer calls lumber project key to attracting new development

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The developer for the former El Cerrito Mill & Lumber Co. site spoke to local Rotarians last week and outlined his company's plans for the 4.2-acre property at San Pablo Avenue and Schmidt Lane.

"We really want to build something in the midtown district that is upscale, that feels and smells and looks like an upscale project," said John Baer, a partner with JMS Development Partners of San Carlos. "We think that's the right thing for this district," Baer said at an Rotary Club of El Cerrito luncheon last Thursday.

"We're going to keep our fingers crossed that the market holds, that

interest rates don't skyrocket or the bottom drop out of the technology market. We are going to be long-term players."

That means getting the other players on board. "There are four constituents that each developer has to really make amends with," Baer said. He listed the four constituents as the property's seller, the city, the community and the marketplace. Baer described El Cerrito as an "emerging community" and a good area for the planned project. He said the most important thing about his company's \$20 to \$25 million investment is that "it must succeed" and that its success will bring more investment.

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Residents inquire about traffic control measures

By Clare Curley
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — As the city seeks more applicants to request traffic control measures for their streets, some residents already worry there won't be enough money to handle the few plans in city hands.

Several Traffic and Safety commissioners showed up at a Capital Improvement Projects meeting Monday night to get the latest scoop on traffic projects, as well as remind councilmembers where they stand.

While commissioner Ruth Ganong commended the City Council for compiling such a comprehensive report — one that covered everything from parks to buildings to

sewers — her main concern was controlling traffic on her street.

"On Ordway Avenue, we want speed tables (a smaller version of a speed bump that limits vehicles to driving over at no more than 25 mph) to maintain the speed at 25 miles per hour. On the block, 25 of the 26 neighbors have signed" the petition requesting them, said Ganong.

The city is in the midst of launching into a traffic calming process, but it has yet to work out all the details on funding the process.

Last fall it allotted an annual \$50,000 for calming measures out-

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Sales tax projection encouraging for EC

By J.R. Deaton
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The latest edition of Sales Tax Digest continues to be a good read as far as city coffers are concerned.

Julie Brown, El Cerrito's financial services manager, reported last week that sales tax collections during the fourth quarter of 2000 for the city are projected to be 10.6 percent above the same quarter last year.

Fourth quarter tax collections, covering the period from Aug. 12, 2000, to Nov. 13, 2000, reflect third

quarter sales, Brown said.

"Key gains in the third quarter were from new auto sales, service station and recreation products economic segments," she reported. "New auto sales and department store economic segments together make up 45 percent of the city's sales tax."

The digest report points out that according to State Board of Equalization collections, \$560,327 was generated by El Cerrito businesses dur-

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KNIGHT RIDDER

INFORMATION FOR LIFE

WORTH CHECKING OUT

New Albany Library contest

Enter the Last Lines Contest at the Albany Library. Correctly identify the title and author of 15 fictional works and win 10 Book Bucks. Entry forms and Last Lines available at the Albany Library reference desk. Contest ends Feb. 28. Questions? Call Julie Winkelstein at 526-3720 ext 19.

Chiura Obata program

El Cerrito Art Association's monthly meeting is Monday, Feb. 12 from 7:30 to 9 p.m., featuring a slide program of the "Art & Life Of Chiura Obata," who was a UC Berkeley art professor. His art work vividly portrays life and experiences of Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II; the hardship, the heartbreak, as well as hope for the future. His art work of California landscapes reflects his philosophy of life. The narration will be done by his granddaughter and official historian, Kimi Kodani Hill. She has art degrees from UC Berkeley and the California College of Arts and Crafts. She has presented similar programs at several museums, resource seminars, in several states, served as curator of Obata's exhibits at several institutions, and wrote the text for "Topaz Moon: Chiura Obata's Art of the Internment." The public is invited on a first-come-first-served basis as seating is limited. A donation is appreciated. The presentation is at the El Cerrito Community Center Garden Room, 7007 Mooser Lane in El Cerrito. Details: 510-524-6739 or 510-526-1127.

Early Baouee

On Sunday, Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. the chamber ensemble Flauti Diversi presents "Belle Fiore, Belle Fleur: The Virtuoso Italian and Elegant French Style of the Early Baroque." The concert is sponsored by the Music on Squirrel Hill series at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. A reception for audience and musicians follows the concert. Suggested donations are \$15 general, \$10 student/senior. Details: 510-525-0302.

Learn public speaking

Take the terror out of talking. The State Health Toastmasters Club is offering a six-session workshop to help participants overcome nervousness and learn basic public speaking skills. Starting Feb. 8, from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m., Room

804, Calif. Dept. of Health Services, 2151 Berkeley Way. Open to the public. Cost is \$30. Other five dates of the workshop are: Feb. 15, Feb. 22, Mar. 8, Mar. 15 and Mar. 22. Details: Edie Higgins, 510-649-7750.

Free chess workshop

Robert Haines, National Master in chess, is offering a free drop-in chess workshop in the Edith Stone Room of the Albany Library. This workshop, which is a great opportunity to play chess and also improve your chess game, is held every Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. Chess sets provided. Questions? Call Julie Winkelstein at the Albany Library: 510-526-3720 ext 19.

Get ready for tax time

Prefer to have your teeth pulled by a pair of pliers than face the tax paperwork? Let a professional organizer provide you with assistance to minimize the pain. Laugh and learn the what, when, where, why, and how of organizing for taxes. Frances Strassman, of More Than Order in Berkeley, will present a talk Saturday, Feb. 3, 2001 at the Albany Adult Education center located in MacGregor School at 601 San Gabriel Ave. in Albany. The class is from 9-11 a.m., the fee is \$15. The class is especially helpful for small business people. Strassman is a member of the National Association of Professional Organizers.

Garden Club meeting

The El Cerrito Garden Club will meet at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane. A program on "Lichens of California" will be presented by Janet and Richard Doell, members of the California Lichen Society. Guests are welcome, \$3 at the door. For more information call 510-525-1669.

Teaching Excellence

The Ed. Fund announces its 14th annual Teaching Excellence Awards competition. Six \$500 cash awards will be given to recognize the extraordinary efforts of teachers, librarians and/or counselors at all grade levels in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Awards, to be presented at the annual Ed. Fund Teaching Excellence Awards Banquet on May 18 will increase the community's knowledge and appreciation of the high quality of education offered

throughout WCCUSD schools. To be eligible, a nominee must be a full-time WCCUSD teacher, librarian, or counselor, employed by the WCCUSD for at least the past three years. Past Ed. Fund Teaching Excellence Awards winners are not eligible. Students, parents, district employees, business people, and other community members are encouraged to submit nominations postmarked or faxed no later than Saturday, Feb. 3. The Ed. Fund will send an application form to every nominee nominated by the postmark/fax deadline. To be considered for an award, nominees must complete a Teaching Excellence Award Application Form. To choose the award recipients, The Ed. Fund will evaluate the applications the nominees submit, interview finalists, and select recipients. For nomination forms or more details check online at www.wccusd.k12.ca.us or call 510-233-1464.

Tax help for seniors

The American Association of Retired Persons provides free tax preparation and assistance to low- and moderate-income taxpayers, with special attention to senior citizens, Feb. 1 through April 15. Volunteers are trained in cooperation with the IRS to assist seniors with their personal income tax returns at numerous locations throughout the Bay Area. Details: 888-727-7669.

Programs for young folks

The El Cerrito Community Center at 7007 Mooser Lane offers special programs for children from 22 months to 5 years of age. These programs are designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. Teeter Tots is a program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years and meets Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-noon. The program for ages 3-1/2-kindergarten meets Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Casa Cerrito Tots is a program for ages 3-1/2 to 5 that provides skill building and kindergarten readiness activities in an exciting age-appropriate setting. Toilet training is preferred. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Details: Judie Bellotti at 510-215-4371.

Witness sought in pedestrian's death

By Clare Curley

STAFF WRITER

An AC Transit driver is under investigation for an accident that killed 82-year-old Shih Feng Fan an El Cerrito resident, on Jan. 2.

Fan was hit by a bus around 5:30 p.m. as she was crossing the intersection of San Pablo Avenue and Cutting Boulevard, according to a report. Witnesses told police she had been waiting on the center island of San Pablo. When the light turned green, she stepped into the street to head eastbound, and was hit by a bus rounding the corner.

Fan was flown to John Muir Medical Center, where she died that night

of related injuries.

The bus had just left the Del Norte BART station and was about to head north on San Pablo.

Such incidents are treated as potential homicides, according to officer Scott Erwin, who showed up at the scene minutes after she was hit. "I can't tell you if the driver will be charged," he added.

The driver, Felix Foster, is on suspension pending the investigation. Erwin is still seeking witnesses, particularly a bike-owner who may be able to help determine what happened.

"It's my belief there was a bicycle on the bike rack on the front of

the bus," he said. "I was interested in talking to the person looking at the bike."

According to Erwin, witnesses left the scene. The bike-owner would be a valuable witness.

Also pending are statements as well as lab reports that will determine whether the driver under the influence of alcohol.

Fan is survived by his wife, Wenchi.

To contact Erwin with information on the incident, call 215-4414, x10.

Clothes taken from locker during SH

STAFF REPORT

EL CERRITO — At 1:30 a.m. on Jan. 24, a woman was arrested when an officer discovered a trunkload of blank forged financial documents during a routine traffic violation, on the 5800 block of Cutting Boulevard, according to a police report.

El Cerrito officer David Tam said that the driver, a 36-year-old woman, showed him a forged drivers license. During the search he also found what appeared to be a small amount of methamphetamine.

The suspect was subsequently transported to the Main Detention facility in Martinez.

■ At about 5 a.m. on Jan. 28 El Cerrito officer Scott Claitt observed a vehicle traveling above the posted speed limit in the 10100 block of San Pablo Avenue. Officer Claitt initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle on San Jose Street near San Mateo Street.

Officer Claitt was advised that the vehicle was reported stolen to the Berkeley Police Department on Jan. 8. The 19-year-old driver, a resident of Oakland, was placed under arrest and charged with motor vehicle theft.

■ At 2:20 a.m. on Jan. 23, a 31-year-old man was arrested for driving a stolen car and given a DUI while he was in line at the Jack-In-

POLICE REPORTS

The-Box drive-thru on 5900 Cutting Boulevard.

El Cerrito officer Scott Claitt reported that the driver looked "suspicious" and during a check found that the license plate matched a car that was stolen 10 days earlier.

The suspect was sent to a facility in Martinez, and the passenger, a 20-year-old male, was released after booking.

■ On Jan. 12 at 12:40 p.m., a 37-year-old man was arrested for allegedly shoplifting \$90 worth of merchandise from the Target Store on 11450 San Pablo Ave. The items were returned to the store.

Later that afternoon, a 37-year-old man was arrested for smuggling \$108 worth of batteries in a nylon bag from Target. He was placed under citizen's arrest upon leaving the store.

■ The afternoon of Jan. 12 a 58-year-old woman was arrested for allegedly shoplifting a cart full of groceries valued at \$194 from Albertson's, at 10700 San Pablo Avenue.

■ A 58-year-old woman reported that \$300 worth of rings were miss-

ing from her home on the 600 block of Gladys Avenue. She reported that the rings were taken from Jan. 9 and 10, and no suspects at the time.

■ The afternoon of Jan. 12 a lawnmower belonging to a 37-year-old man was taken from the 5300 block of Cypress Avenue.

■ At 1:10 p.m. on Jan. 24 a 19-year-old woman told police that she had been stolen from the side of Laundromat at 11450 San Pablo.

The victim, who is married, described the suspect as a white woman in her mid-30s, with 5'8" and 160 pounds, with long, bright red hair. The suspect had left in a mid-1980s Chrysler with no left rear wheel.

■ The morning of Jan. 24 a 77-year-old man reported that he got out of the pool at 7007 Mooser Lane and found his keys and wallet were missing from the locker he left them.

■ A stolen 1999 Toyota was found during a raid on the 7000 block of Cutting Boulevard at 3 a.m. on Jan. 12. It was returned to its owner's home.

Focus on R.E. Loan Mortgage Co.

Albany Chamber

By Roxanne Wiley

R.E. Loan Mortgage Company is owned and managed by Karen Ward, an extraordinarily gifted woman who is an expert in debt consolidation, buying homes or businesses, refinancing and investments. In other words, if you need expert advice on what to do with property you already have or property you want to have or investment direction, Karen is the gal to talk to.

She is a competent consultant who can explain all manner of things in a fully understandable way. She leads workshops for HUD and other organizations, thoroughly explaining the steps required in buying a home or refinancing one. In fact, she will be conducting a Homebuyer Finance Workshop from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Feb. 3.

Karen is married, a cat fancier (she asked me not to say how many) and loves to go to the North Coast for relaxation. She is active in the Albany Rotary Club, Albany/Berkeley Board of Realty (who named her Affiliate of The Year last year) and the Albany Chamber. She also has been involved in a fundraising effort for the homeless by co-sponsoring a benefit the last six years called



KAREN WARD is a loan consultant for R.E. Loan Mortgage Company.

Give For Treat Night. Remember, the workshop is free and full of important information for you. Learn the basics so that you can make good, informed decisions. Call for reservations at 510-718-2134.

Mixer at Cafe Eclectica

On Feb. 22, there will be a mixer hosted by Dr. Charlie Prins, chiropractor extraordinaire, and

the board of directors of Cafe Eclectica. It will be a chance for the community to get inside of this cafe that is normally filled with teens, and see what it is they are trying to do there.

Come on down to 1309 Solano Ave. anytime between 5:30-7:30 p.m.

To place a classified ad call 339-8777.

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man, who were still at the woman's home. The Richmond man was found to have an outstanding warrant from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's office for driving without a license in the amount of \$5,000. He was arrested and transported to the Santa Rita Jail. The other man was allowed to depart.

■ On the afternoon of Jan. 24 a resident on the 1300 block of Marin Avenue reported that thieves had entered her home through a window and stole items. There were no witnesses.

■ On the morning of Jan. 25 a resident on the 1500 block of Sonoma Avenue reported that thieves had stolen his gray '81 Toyota 2-door. Later that morning officers located the car farther down the block when they responded to a report of a white '81 Toyota four-door that had been stolen. Evidently the thieves decided to trade up for more doors.

■ On the morning of Jan. 25 the principal of the Albany Adult School reported that during the night thieves

had broken into the main entrance of the 600 block of San Pablo and stole cash and items. There were no witnesses.

■ On the evening of Jan. 24 a resident on the 400 block of Cutting Avenue reported that thieves stole two bicycles from the garage of his apartment building. There were no witnesses.

■ On the morning of Jan. 24 a worker at a construction site on the 1000 block of Ventura Avenue reported that thieves had stolen tools during the night. There were no witnesses.

■ On the afternoon of Jan. 24 officers responded to Albany Adult School in the area near Piedmont. Ramona avenues on reported students drinking and causing a disturbance. Officers contacted a year-old Hercules man who found he had a suspended license. He was arrested for derelict conduct and possession

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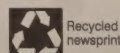
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Creating artwork that's sweet enough to eat

By Ian Bauer
STAFF WRITER

Stevie Famulari has her art supplies ready — but they're not the typical paintbrush, easel and palette. Instead, the Oakland artist uses Gummi Bears, Twizzlers, Spice of Life and Rainbow Crystals in what she calls "sugar art."

Famulari prepared her edible art for Skapades Hair Salon in Berkeley last month. Even though recent rains melted some of the sugary candies on the window, a person on the street might still consider stopping for a look... and then bending over to

"My art is meant to be experienced with at least four of the senses," Famulari says, while she adds more candy onto the window. "People watch, the usual refrain is 'Can I lick it?'"

She'll reply with enthusiasm, "Sure, go right ahead."

Famulari is a recent arrival to the East Bay from the East Village in New York City. Her sugar business, SUGAR (pronounced "shug art") is based in Oakland, and specializes in edible art designs.

The 29-year-old says she is happy with her move to California: "It's a completely different weather out here. Here it needed this weather to do work."

"I've been doing art my entire life," Famulari says. She received her undergraduate degree in photography from New York University in 1992. May 2000, she got her master's degree in landscape architecture with a concentration in sculpture at the University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

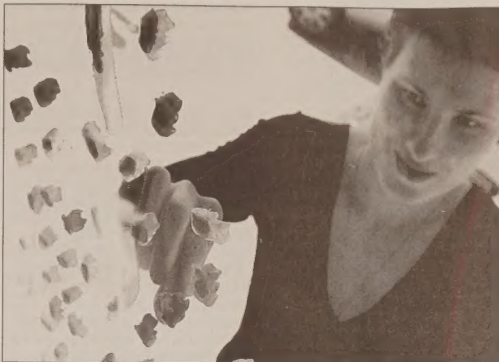
One of her influences is the artist Christo, who made famous the use of large canvases and sheets to cover large expanses of natural landscape objects. "Christo put these great sheets up and made you notice scale. He forced people to re-see things," Famulari says.

Famulari imagined that undergirding outdoor art that was sugared would attract curious creatures to gobble it up. At a two-story wedding in Philadelphia that she described like a wedding cake, she thought rats would come out from the building's basement and start eating, but they never showed.

And during her "Sugarland" show, she covered a forest in Syracuse, N.Y., with the covered in colored frosting. She expected the ants to arrive in the trees, but they never crawled her

There was just this hyperactive ant running around, and that was it," she says.

For the "Sugarland" project, Famulari mixed up a batch of frosting with sugar, vegetable dyes, egg whites and meringue powder, which she used as the substitute for egg whites. "Without the meringue powder or egg whites, the frosting starts to fall off," she says,



STEVE MASLANKA/STAFF

STEVIE FAMULARI places a Gummi Bear on to her latest work, an edible piece of candy art gracing the front window of S.Kapades Hair Salon on Shattuck Avenue. Right, detail of her newest creation.



motioning with her hands as if the frosting were melting off a birthday cake. The sweet installation cost \$1,000, and used almost 200 pounds of sugar. Comparatively, 300 pounds of sugar were used for the building in Philadelphia. Famulari spent some of her education studying formally in culinary arts school so that she would know the basics of creating her designs, like a pastry chef.

The ingredients of Famulari's work is environment friendly. She says, "It might not be helpful to the environment, but it is not harmful." "Sugarland" was a particularly community-oriented project. Famulari explains: "There were two versions. It was first designed by children. Some kids in the neighborhood first saw me working on it. They went home and told their parents about it. They even showed a photo of the work to their parents. Then somehow the kids worked on it, using candy I left out there in the woods," she says. The day before the opening, it rained. "Then it was the adults' turn. People were invited and they were covering branches with frosting."

Famulari works on a site-specific basis. Her colors and themes are picked to fit the neighborhood and the location of her work. She keeps the space, the area surrounding her art, always at the forefront of her projects. She works in a sketch book, drawing with a gold ink pen on black pages.

"I use the colors from the neighborhood. I use the awnings, the store fronts, the things I see in the neighborhood, and the colors used the day

I did it," Famulari says.

Jill Girvin, owner of Skapades Hair Salon, has a two-month contract with Famulari to keep up the candy-covered front window. Famulari contacted Girvin through a friend, and it wasn't hard to entice her with the idea of edible window design. "Jill was one of those highly enthusiastic people. She just wanted it," says Famulari.

Girvin relates, while giving a haircut to a customer, "I thought it sounded really fun. It's something people can look at. I thought the blind guy and the mean Tourette's guy and the whole crowd would really enjoy it."

Famulari will frost dancers this month, covering their bodies from head to toe in frosting. "The frosting will crack off the dancers' bodies as they move. The frosting falls off and it exposes what's underneath," she says. It will take her over an hour to put all the frosting on the dancers.

"I see myself doing temporary or ephemeral work," she says as she explains her future in art. "I wouldn't mind frosting a museum or a frosting a vacant building — take what people think of as worthless space and turn it into something."

"It's about things being temporary. It's about the experience. It's a change and a process," she says as she moves around ecstatically, squirting colored frosting and attaching gummi bears to the front window, where they'll stay until disintegrated or eaten.

land police reported locating a white '85 Chevrolet pickup that had been reported as stolen from Albany. There was minor damage to the truck and they did not have anyone in custody. The owners were notified.

■ Shortly before midnight on Jan. 28 Albany officers contacted three subjects on the 500 block of Cleveland Avenue who were in a Toyota pickup near a motor home that had been reported as abandoned the day prior. The 50-year-old Oakland man was found to have a felony No Bail warrant out of Alameda County for possession of drugs. He was arrested and transported to the Berkeley jail.

The San Francisco man was found to have an outstanding warrant from San Francisco for battery and obstructing an officer in the amount of \$2,000. He was arrested, cited and released with a Notice to Appear. The third man checked clear and was allowed to depart.

■ On the morning of Jan. 29 a resident on the 800 block of Kains Avenue reported that between the previous afternoon and the time of the report thieves had stolen most of his bike. They did not take the wheel that was locked to the bike rack.

Safeway makes donation to scholarship fund

EL CERRITO — Employees and customers of the El Cerrito Safeway supermarket have donated more than \$1,202 to the David Hunter Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Senior Center Open House Trust Fund.

"As you may remember, Safeway stores donated \$879.89 in December of 2000," reported Community Services Manager Monica Kortz in a report to the City Council last week. That amount, added to an additional \$322 received later, will go to the two city funds to help youngsters and seniors in need. "Staff appreciates Safeway store's donation," Kortz said.

Pasta night benefit for swim center scheduled

EL CERRITO — Community Services Manager Monica Kortz also informed the council that a pasta night and silent auction is planned at the Swim Center as part of a larger fund raising effort.

"To supplement the funds provided by Measure A for the El Cerrito Swim Center the staff is launching a marketing campaign to raise funds for the pool," Kortz said. "A variety of funding sources have been identified including private donations, grant applications to local and regional private foundations, as well as a community grass roots pasta fund raiser and silent auction."

Kortz said that money raised will be used to help pay for such things as pool covers, bleachers and water play equipment.

"The pasta fund raiser will be a special time for our community to come together and enjoy an evening full of fun, food and spirit," Kortz said.

The fund raiser is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane. Tickets are \$10 per per-

son or \$30 for a family of four. Prices will rise to \$13 per person/\$40 for family of four after April 20 and can be charged using Visa or MasterCard. Phone 215-4370 to order tickets.

If you would like to volunteer to help out with the fund raiser or would like to donate to the silent auction, contact Samantha Kelman, special program supervisor, at 510-215-4370.

2002-03 Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship applications available

ALBANY — Applications for 2002-2003 Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships are now available from the Rotary Club of Albany.

The scholarships, which are designed to further international understanding and goodwill, provide for study abroad in more than 160 countries where Rotary clubs are located. Some 1,300 scholarships of various types will be available from clubs worldwide.

During their studies abroad, Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars act as "ambassadors of goodwill." Through appearances before Rotary clubs and districts, schools, civic organizations, and other forums, the scholars represent their homelands and work to further international understanding.

Academic-Year Ambassadorial Scholarships are for one academic year abroad and provide funding for round-trip transportation, tuition and fees, room, board, some educational supplies, and language training (if necessary), up to a maximum award of U.S. \$25,000 or its equivalent.

Also available are Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarships which provide funding for three or six months of intensive language study and cultural immersion in another country, including transportation, tuition and homestay expenses, up to a maximum of U.S. \$12,000 and U.S. \$19,000 respectively.

For more information and an application, contact Harry Rabin at 510-527-1177 or harryrabin@hotmail.com. Interested students may also want to consult the Rotary Web site at www.rotary.org, where the application may be downloaded in English.

The Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships program is the world's largest privately sponsored international scholarship program. Focused on humanitarian service, personal diplomacy, and academic excellence, the program has sponsored more than 30,000 Rotary Scholars abroad since it began in 1947.

AAUW 'Souper Supper' fundraiser is Feb. 14

The Richmond-El Cerrito Branch of the American Association of University Women will hold a "Souper Supper" at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at the Masonic Lodge, 6922 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito to raise funds for their scholarship funds. Cost is \$10 per person. Supper includes soup, salad, bread and dessert. Reservations should be made by Feb. 10 to Marjorie Abraham at 525-6042. The public is invited to attend.

Guest speaker of the evening will be Mary Singleton, a retired employee of the Lawrence Livermore Lab who will speak on her experiences while employed there.

The local branch supports the AAUW Educational Foundation established in 1958, which provides fellowship and grants for women worldwide to pursue their professional aspirations, special awards to recognize excellence in achievement, and community action projects that promote education and equity for women and girls.

The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund, established in 1981, provides financial and emotional support for women in academia seeking redress in the courts for sex discrimination.

OBITUARY

UC Berkeley professor emeritus Edmund Laitone dies at age 85

EL CERRITO — Edmund Laitone, an expert on experimental and theoretical aerodynamics and a mechanical engineering professor emeritus at UC Berkeley, died at his home in El Cerrito on Dec. 18. He was 85.

The San Francisco native received his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from UC Berkeley in 1938. He went on to receive a master's degree in applied mathematics in 1944 and, later, a PhD in applied mechanics in 1962, from Stanford University.

He was an aeronautical engineer from 1939-45 with the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, doing experimental and theoretical research in aerodynamics at Langley and Moffett fields. From 1945-47, he was section head of flight research at Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, where he conducted research on supersonic aerodynamics

and aircraft dynamic stability.

Laitone joined the UC Berkeley faculty as an associate professor in 1947. He explored many interests in his academic career, including various administrative positions within the College of Engineering.

Laitone was the Miller Research Professor in the Miller Institute for Basic Research in Science from 1960-61 and chaired the Division of Aeronautical Sciences in the College of Engineering from 1963-68. He was also an exchange professor to Moscow University in the fall of 1964, and in 1968 he was a visiting fellow at Balliol College, Oxford University. As assistant dean of the College of Engineering from 1979-82, he was in charge of the college's engineering education television program, and from 1981-95, he chaired University Extension's Engineering Department. In 1980, he was a visiting lecturer in aeronautical engineering at the Northwestern Polytechnic Institute in Xian, China.

During his years as professor,

Laitone also worked as a consultant for many engineering companies and federal agencies, including Hughes Aircraft Co., Douglas Aircraft Co., the Ramo-Woolridge Corp., Lockheed Aircraft Corp., General Motors Corp. and the Office of Naval Research.

Laitone, a fellow of the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics since 1988, was the U.S. academic representative of the Flight Mechanics Panel of NATO's Advisory Group for Aerospace Research and Development (AGARD) from 1984-88.

He is survived by his daughter, Vicki Laitone Cucarola of Moraga; his son, Ivan Arbogast of Watsonville; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. His wife, Dorothy Laitone, died in 1997. His son Jonathan Laitone died in 1981.

A private memorial service was held Jan. 13 in El Cerrito. Memorial gifts can be sent to the Jonathan Laitone Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o the Department of Mechanical Engineering, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720-1740.

Crime

FROM PAGE A2

on school grounds. He was released with a Notice to Appear.

At about 2:30 a.m. on Jan. 28 officers stopped a silver '95 Saturn near the 700 block of Adams Street for erratic driving. The driver, a 44-year-old Sobranite man, was found to be intoxicated. He failed the Field Sobriety Test and was arrested. He was cited and held to be released on sober.

On the evening of Jan. 28 Oak-

There were no witnesses.

During the week of Jan. 22 Albany officers towed four vehicles, responded to 16 false alarms, attended to four lost or deceased animals, and assisted seven people who were locked out of their house or car. In the domestic arena officers responded to 15 civil disturbances and 93 civil assists. Officers stopped 77 cars and/or pedestrians issuing 33 citations and 44 warnings. Albany firefighter/paramedics responded to 15 medical emergencies.



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Society's resources need to reach the best and brightest, not the privileged

"Is this the best we can do?" If you're like me, that's what you've been asking yourself, surveying this current crop of mediocrities masquerading as leaders: Bush, Gore, et al.

Henry L. Mencken said, "The American people know what they want and deserve to get it — good and hard." But Mencken was a cynic, which has been defined as a man who knows the price of everything and the value of none. There is no way we deserve the choices we've been handed. The real question is: Why haven't we been able to do better?

A lot of it has to do with the corrosive influence of big money in politics, but that's a topic for another column. Today, I want to talk about the other aggravating factor, the C-word that nobody wants to admit even exists, much less talk about: Class, as in class system.

For all their policy differences, Bush, Gore, Bradley, Cheney and Lieberman have one thing in common: They all went to Ivy League schools. (Gore went to Harvard, Bradley went to Princeton, and Lieberman, Bush and Cheney went to Yale.)

I was at Yale at the same time. On the first day of freshman year, we all attended a meeting at which the president of the university got up and said, "You guys are the thousand smartest guys in the country (except maybe for the guys at Harvard), and we're training you to be the leaders of the country."

And we actually believed it. No matter that all but 12 of us were white. Or that none of us were female. Or that two-thirds of us came from the Northeast, and almost half from private schools. We really thought we were superior, like everyone was telling us we were.

A few weeks later we took our first exams. When the blue books came back, the marks were a lot lower than we'd expected.

(I later found out that giving low marks the first time around is standard operating procedure. It's Yale's way of saying, "Welcome to the big leagues, kid.")

We were stunned. One of my classmates, a guy named Harton Semple, stood up in chemistry class and sputtered, "You can't do



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

this to us! We're the best and brightest!"

Well, more than 35 years have passed since that day, and although I love my classmates, events have proved that we were <not> the best and brightest, after all. We're bright enough, but geniuses? No way.

If you wanted to find true geniuses back then, the place to look wasn't Harvard, Yale or Princeton. It was Cal State-Hayward and San Francisco State. Or outside academia completely, like a garage where a couple of dropouts named Jobs and Wozniak were tinkering with electronic gizmos.

It's always been this way, and it always will be. Part of the reason is that once you select an elite, its members tend to develop a sense of entitlement. (See Harton Semple, above. Or, for that matter, George W. Bush and Al Gore.) They're just not as "hungry" to use a sports term.

The other reason is a simple question of numbers. My professors at Yale always said that there were three golden eras, when the quality of the students took a quantum leap overnight.

The first was right after World War II, when the G.I. Bill of Rights flooded Yale with a lot of poor boys who would never have gotten anywhere near New Haven before the war.

The second was in the mid '60s, when Yale started admitting kids on merit, rather than who their fathers were.

And the third time, of course, was in the early '70s, when Yale finally started admitting women.

In all three cases, the talent pool was suddenly expanded. There are simply more people at the bottom of the pyramid than at the top. And that means there are more geniuses there, too.

My point is that we select certain kids for a fast track to power, and they're not necessarily the best and brightest. If we want better leaders in the future, we'll have

to change the selection process, especially the early stages, well before adulthood.

I've become aware of this in a very personal way, as I've gotten to know my 9-year-old nephew, Tres.

It didn't take long to realize that not only is Tres smart, he's a lot smarter than I am. He's smarter than my college classmates. And because my sister (his mom) has the financial resources, he'll be able to develop his many talents to the limit. But he'd never have gotten the chance if my sister hadn't adopted him. Tres's natural parents are very poor. Through no fault of their own, they didn't have the resources to help him be all that he can be. And if there's one kid like Tres, there have to be many, many more — all languishing in impoverished communities all over the country, not to mention the world.

One could grow up to discover the cure for cancer. Another could finally find the way to peace in the

Middle East. A third could be the business wiz who abolishes poverty. And a fourth could be the scientist who saves the ozone layer.

Instead, they're all likely to spend their lives as very, very intelligent car wash attendants, because that's the career "track" we've put them on. What a waste!

It reminds me of scene in Ken Burns' "Jazz" series, which just concluded this week on PBS. Music critic Garry Giddins says of Louis Armstrong, "Everyone was looking for the American Bach. But they couldn't recognize him, even though he was right there under their noses, because he was a black trumpet player."

Does this mean we should rip poor kids out of their parents' arms and place them with rich families? Far from it.

To the contrary, we need to pour money into poor communities and give the parents the resources

to take care of their kids themselves.

But the money has to be intelligently applied. We don't need more teachers as much as we need more <good> teachers. There was a fascinating article in last week's "Catholic Voice" about how the parochial schools in the Oakland diocese are losing many of their best teachers to higher paying jobs in the public schools.

"It's a crisis," says one parochial school principal. "Teachers here teach 36 kids. If they go to a public school, they teach 20 kids and are paid \$15,000 more."

To give an example, the base pay for a first-year teacher in the Oakland diocese is \$22,831, compared to \$39,423 in the Berkeley public schools.

But such comparisons ignore the larger truth: Whether you're making 22K or 39K, it's still peanuts. If I were a young teacher just starting out, at those pay rates I'd be jumping from job to job

every year, too.

We won't have an education system worthy of the nation's good teachers as long as we weren't so poor that they don't keep changing jobs to support their own families.

And while we're at it, it'd be nice if the schools themselves weren't so poor that teachers had to pay for routine school supplies like pencils and paper out of their own pockets.

It would be nice, too, if the books weren't 20 years old, either, especially in the sciences.

Hillary Clinton likes to take a village to raise a child. The corollary is: We need to take every child in the village with us.

Phone Martin Snapp at 862-9039, email him at casnapp@comcast.net, or write him at Newspapers, 1969 Mountain View Blvd., Oakland, CA 94611.

Local artists collaborating on Oakland fountain sculpture

Local artists Joseph Slusky of Berkeley, Kieko Nelson of Kensington and Bruce Beasley of Oakland have been selected by Oakland's Craft and Cultural Arts Department to contribute to a fountain sculpture at Frank Ogawa Plaza.

The Frank Ogawa Plaza fountain sculpture is part of the Downtown Oakland revitalization plan. Up to \$250,000 is available for the design and installation of the art piece.

Other work by the artists will be on display until Feb. 8 at the third floor of City Hall, at 14th Street and Broadway. During that time, the public is invited to comment and vote on

their favorite design.

By the end of the month, a panel composed of at least one community member, two artists or arts experts, as well as non-voting advisors from city staff and the Public Art Advisory Committee will choose which design will be commissioned.

"We have an amazing collection of artists," said Ben Hazard, co-director of the craft and cultural arts department. "Any one of these artists' sculptures would be worthy to serve as a beacon for Oakland."

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Opinion

Popular police officer plans to retire soon

The sun was shining brightly and all seemed right in Albany when the call that no officer likes to hear came through the police radio: A 4-year old boy had wandered away from his home on Brighton Avenue.

Immediately four Albany patrol cars, one of them driven by day shift supervisor Sgt. Richard Haugner, converged on the scene and began a search of the area. Some days only three officers are available. I was riding with the sergeant, and could not help but wonder if I were in on the beginning of one of those ghastly abduction cases. All reporters like big stories, but I prayed this was not going to be one.

And it wasn't. In about five or six minutes Officer Dave Lembi found the wandering boy at Blockbuster Video on San Pablo Avenue. And so this event wound up in our weekly police notes instead of becoming a front page tragedy for the dailies.

It was good police work and, as a little luck that found the child before an accident or worse and him. But as that great philosopher Branch Rickey observed, "Luck is the residue of design." In this instance the designers are the members of a police department, which has given Albany one of the lowest crime rates in two counties and helped drive property values sky high.

Haugner has been a mainstay of the department for almost 30 years, and plans to retire on April 15, his 55th birthday. He has served under three police chiefs, was promoted to sergeant 12 years ago, and has been a bike officer, detective, and aside from being paid supervisor for the day shift, performs duties including overseeing vehicle maintenance. He is singularly fitted for the latter task having restored cars since he was a teenager.

Following graduation from El Cerrito High School and Contra Costa College, Haugner did a two-year hitch in the army, 14 months with the artillery in Korea. Always handy with tools, he began working at Pastime Hardware in El Cerrito in high school and worked there while in college and on and off ever since.

I have known Richard Haugner 30 years and think of him as both a police officer and friend. To ride around town with him in his big, black Chevy Tahoe is to realize how many others feel the same way.

Typical of them is a man who has some ammunition and reloading powder while preparing for a yard sale. He knows Haugner,



DAVE GREER
Man About Town

and hails our passing cruiser to ask that he dispose of these items for him. They have a chat, and we move on eyeballing the traffic and listening to the radio calls.

People wave and smile as we pass. Another man approaches the vehicle and discusses a problem on which Haugner has been advising him. The sergeant tells him that an officer familiar with the case will, "have a talk" with the other party in the dispute.

And sometimes that's all it takes. A talk with a police officer can be a sobering experience even today when the malefactors seem to have more rights than the law enforcers. As genial and friendly as Haugner is, his demeanor can change in the blink of an eye.

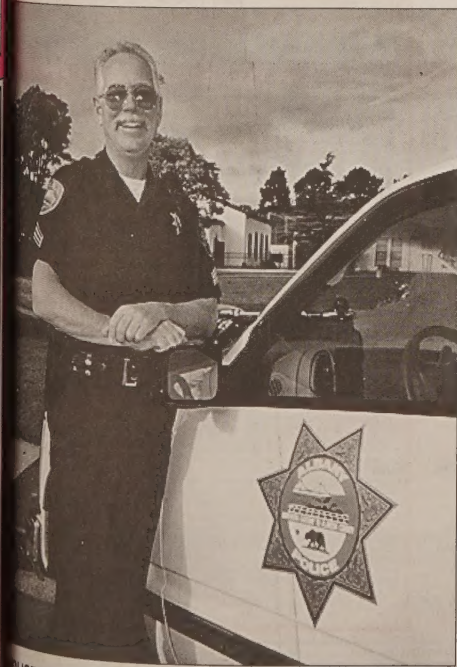
Some years ago I was present in the Albany Police Station when a man at the counter was becoming abrasive with the dispatcher. Haugner overheard him from the back room, came out and asked what the problem was. Looking up at six-foot-four inches of authority figure, the loud mouth decided there really wasn't any problem. One magical transformation had produced another with few words spoken and none of them threatening.

In his many years on the force Haugner has apprehended his hare of violent criminals, but he says that police work is, "very little cops and robbers and mostly public service." About the only busts he likes to talk about are the ones with a humorous twist like the case of the frightened bank robber.

"We had a call on a bank robbery and when I got there I saw a guy coming out the front door who looked all right except that his eyes were unusually large," Haugner recalls. "When he saw me watching him, he ran down an alley and I caught him there. He wanted to know how I knew it was him, and I told him his eyes were big as saucers."

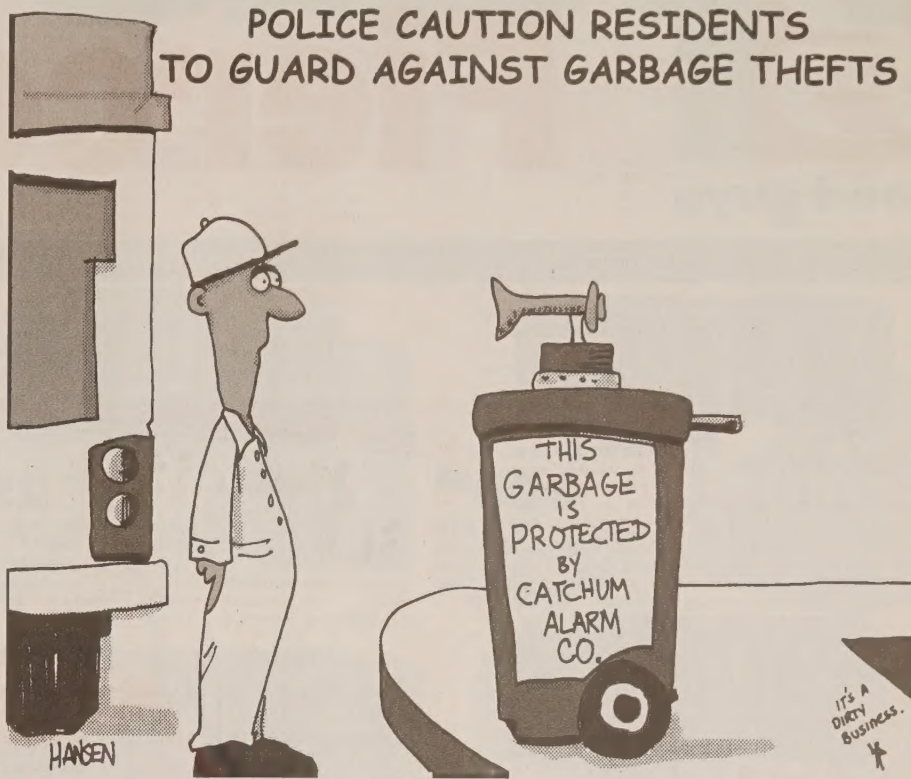
Although the veteran sergeant is usually greeted with a wave, he once received a single digit salute. A check on the rude citizen revealed that he had an outstanding warrant. This landed him in the bucket, but he then sent out to a local bar asking patrons to take up a collection for his bail. They did. Albany does not have as much

See RETIRE, Page A12



POLICE VETERAN Sgt. Richard Haugner will retire soon.

POLICE CAUTION RESIDENTS TO GUARD AGAINST GARBAGE THEFTS



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sponsor a musical chair

Families know the importance of providing a good foundation of love and support for children. We also know the value of providing our children with a solid foundation in the arts.

There are some practical, yet essential foundations that are in severe disrepair in the Portola Middle School Music Room. The chairs.

Due to constant use hour after hour and year after year, the chairs in the music room are unbalanced and worn with age. They need to be put into retirement.

In terms of health, new chairs will provide growing musicians with better back support. In terms of safety, new chairs will be able to be stacked, making the room more accessible.

We challenge our community to help raise money for new music room chairs. We encourage you to ask extended family and community members to participate — perhaps as a birthday, holiday or Valentine's gift.

We have provided below directions and ideas for sponsorship. If you would like your contribution mentioned in the March 20 concert program, please indicate that as well.

Musical chair sponsorship opportunities: A new chair from Wenger Corporation costs \$60. There are 65 chairs to be retired.

Conductor's Circle, \$120 and above
Full Note Club, \$60
Half Note Club, \$30
Quarter Note Club, \$15
Your check may be made out to Portola PTA Music and sent to 638 Clayton St., El Cerrito 94530.

Questions or comments should be directed to Ellie, 234-0400, or Joann, 524-9464.

All donations are tax-deductible.
Portola Middle School PTA
El Cerrito

Pursue alternative electrical generation

We're outraged at the energy shortage, yet Americans have been energy gluttons at the expense of the rest of the world. America (with 4 percent of the world's population) accounts for 25 percent of the emissions which cause global warming. What if other countries used fuel at the same level?

Besides directly burning fossil fuel, we also use it for nitrogen fertilizers, which leach into our rivers and lakes, killing fish and other wildlife; and for pesticides and herbicides, which are toxic to other life forms and give us cancer and birth defects. In Nigerian oil wells, natural gas is flared off, causing massive air and water pollution and health problems for the people, who have been attacked and killed when they protest.

Gas-guzzling SUVs are still our fastest selling vehicle. The energy we take for granted is really our children's inheritance, which we are squandering. President Bush is willing to sacrifice the Alaskan wildlife refuge in order to obtain a six-month supply of oil. Worldwide, it's estimated there is only a 30- to 40-year supply of oil left.

And so many alternatives have barely been explored. Solar energy can heat our homes and water and provide electricity. Fuel cells running on hydrogen can produce electricity and hot water with no pollution. Diesel vehicles can be powered with recycled vegetable oil. Organic farming uses no fossil fuel-based fertilizer, herbicides or pesticides.

Our ancestors viewed fire as sacred. If we lived with the "seventh generation" in mind, we would begin making the transition away from fossil fuels today, instead of demanding yet more power-generating plants.

Cathy Holt
Author of *The Circle of Healing: Deepening Our Connections with Self, Others, and Nature* (www.TalkingBirdsPress.com)

Solution has now become the problem

When a "solution" to an ill-conceived "problem" is sought, without thorough analysis, the solution then becomes the problem. Such is the politically contrived suggestion that the city of Hercules secede from the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

As taxpayers in Hercules, we should be aware of the following. We will continue to be fiscally liable for the school district's indebtedness. We will bear the cost of new schools, warehouses, maintenance shops, central administration, special-education facilities, community facilities, etc. We will be required to provide immediate financial support for salary and health benefits for all school employees — a multimillion dollar budget item!

Will these large budget taxpayer responsibilities enhance or promote sound educational performance? Absolutely not! The students, the parents and the teachers will not have changed. The proposed solution — secession — becomes the problem.

Speaking as a 16-year taxpayer in the city of Hercules, I don't buy the suggested solution that has now become the problem!

Woody Snodgrass
Hercules

Snodgrass is a former superintendent and trustee of the West Contra Costa school district.

School reform ideas

Sometimes we need a reminder about school reform measures. Here I offer a few of my ideas.

The school district trustees should immediately put in place the following policies. Teachers should be prohibited from donating school supplies in their classrooms and be closely monitored on their work apparel, e.g., suits and dresses.

Students should be asked to remove headwear in the school buildings and address their instructors as Mr. and Ms.

Homework should be increased to four or five hours per night for five days each week and four books should be read each term by every student, kindergarten through 12th grade. Make academics job one at each campus

and give each principal a hire-and-fire authority at his or her campus.

If you wish to challenge these priorities, please do so immediately by replying with your letters to be published in the newspaper.

Martin S. Gottlieb
El Sobrante

District does listen

I find it very unfortunate that some Hercules residents feel the recent action of our City Council to promote advisory Measure G is what "finally got the attention of the district" to hear the "voices of the Hercules City Council."

I am an active parent volunteer in the district. I would have to argue that this so-called sleeping giant has been awake for some time now; not from ranting, raving and political maneuvers, but from honest and open dialogue among active parents of district students, the school board, and West Contra Costa school district administration.

Yes, we all have a right to be heard. However, communication has always required a two-way partnership. Were the Hercules City Council members at the recent district reorganization meetings? Where were the City Council members during the long-range facilities planning meetings, the steering committee meetings, and the partnership council meetings?

I was present at most of those meetings and was usually sitting with Pinole residents and council members because Hercules had so few present.

I believe the district heard the voices of its constituents last November, with the overwhelming majority voting in Measure M.

I am afraid the Hercules City Council did not take into consideration that, as a district, we have made huge and long strides toward improvements in achievement, facilities, safety and attendance. We still have a long way to go, but our goals will only be achieved with open, honest and consistent dialogue between the city and the school district.

I am a proud parent of three children attending schools in the district, two at Hanna Ranch Elementary and one at Pinole Valley High. I find it very curious that many of the proponents of Measure G do not have children currently attending the school district. Are they aware of the hard work many of us have put in to reach the goals we have set for every child in this district?

I am upset with rumors that continually spread throughout our community. I have walked the halls of the district and have never been led to believe the district felt any animosity toward me or our community. I have never heard any of the administrators refer to my fellow Herculesians as "prima donnas."

When voters go to the polls in March, I hope they will be well informed — about real issues, not rumors or pipe dreams.

We should all work toward a healthier, constructive relationship and communication with the district in improving all our schools.

Lisa Baranda
Hercules

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

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Home Audio



DENON **Surround Sound Audio/Video Receiver**
Delivering 60 watts to all five channels, this Dolby® Digital/DTS receiver has enough power to satisfy all of your home theater needs. It also features Denon's five-channel stereo, where all five speakers play a stereo image that creates surround sound music. AVR1601



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TDK **Dual Deck 4x High Speed CD Recorder**
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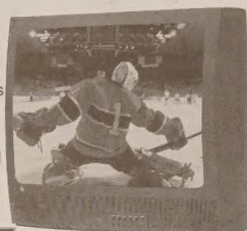
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Features 2 S-Video, surround sound, and component video inputs. Also has Incredible Picture™ and 800 lines of horizontal resolution. Includes a full-featured remote and advanced memory options, such as AutoSurf™, for you to organize and access your favorite channels with ease. 27PT31B

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SONY 36" Flat Screen WEGA™ TV

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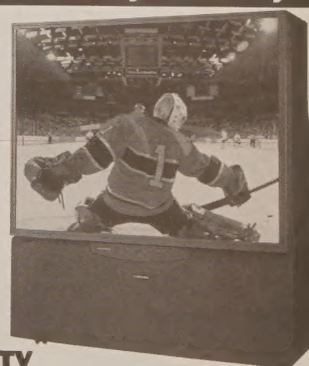
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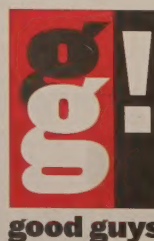
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NEWS BRIEFS

School district sets special board meetings

The Albany Unified School District has scheduled special board meetings on Tuesday, Feb. 6 and Thursday, Feb. 15 to provide information to parents, students, staff and the community on potential program reductions to the budget. Both sessions are at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium/gymnasium of Ocean View School, 1000 Jackson Street, Albany.

AAUW 'Souper Supper' fundraiser is Feb. 14

The Richmond-El Cerrito Branch of the American Association of University Women will hold a "Souper Supper" at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at the Masonic Lodge, 6922 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito to raise funds for their scholarship funds. Cost is \$10 per person. Supper includes soup, salad, bread and dessert. Reservations should be made by Feb. 10 to Marjorie Abraham at 525-6042. The public is invited to attend.

The guest speaker will be Mary Singleton, a retired employee of the Lawrence Livermore Lab who will speak on her experiences while employed there.

The local branch supports the AAUW Educational Foundation established in 1958, which provides fellowship and grants for women worldwide to pursue their professional aspirations, special awards to recognize excellence in achievement, and community action projects that promote education and equity for women and girls.

Celebrate Havdalah Under the Stars

What better place to celebrate Havdalah (the end of the Jewish Sabbath, which starts with the appearance of three stars in the evening sky) than at "Havdalah Under the Stars" at the new Chabot Space and Science Center in Oakland?

"Havdalah Under the Stars," on Saturday, Feb. 24, at 7:30 p.m., is a Jewish community-wide family celebration, presented by the Center for Jewish Living and Learning of the Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay. Offerings until midnight include: Children's Song Festival for Peace, "The Sky Tonight" Planetarium Show; Intergalactic Teen dance with exclusive late-night surprise; Jewish Constellations, Family Histories by the Judah L. Magnus Museum; Chabot Space and Science Center Exhibits; Family Flicks on Short Subjects; Star Gazing with Chabot telescopes; Discovery Lab and Science Carnival; Talks on Wind River's Mars Pathfinder, and Astronomy and Judaism; kosher food for purchase at the Celestial Cafe.

Tickets: Adults \$12 in advance; \$15 at the door. Children 4-13: \$8. Children under 3: free.

Tickets are available at the following locations: Afikomen, Atid Day School, Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center, Congregation Beth Emek, Contra Costa Jewish Community Center, Contra Costa Jewish Day School, Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay, Grand Bakery, Jewish Family and Children's Services of the East Bay, Judah L. Magnus Museum, L'Chaim, Oakland Hebrew Day School, Oakland Kosher Food and Bagel, Tehiyah Day School, Temple Beth Torah, Temple Isaiah, and Temple Sinai.

The Chabot Space and Science Center is at 10000 Skyline Blvd. in Oakland. For more information, call 510-839-2900, ext. 232.

Volunteers needed for fight against cancer during Daffodil Days campaign

You can help spread the miracle of hope by volunteering for the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days. Until March 8, daffodils — the first flower of spring and the symbol of hope for a cancer-free world — will be sold to benefit the American Cancer Society's groundbreaking research, community education, legislative advocacy and patient service programs. You can help by distributing order forms; organizing daffodil sales in your workplace or community; planning flower delivery routes, arranging bouquets or delivering flowers. For more information about how you can help, call 877-691-HOPE.

Quake monitoring, maps receive new funding

Maps that help forecast the likelihood of soil liquidity and more than \$6 million in state funding for a variety of projects including new earthquake sensors have been developed to combat earthquakes.

U.S. Geological Survey officials in Menlo Park say they are making available a new digital map that shows 44 different types and ages of near-surface deposits in the nine counties that make up the Bay Area. These maps rank the soil based on the likelihood of it acting like liquid in the event of an earthquake.

The more liquid the land becomes in a quake, the higher the damage. This information will be useful in future building and safety planning for the area.

"Most of the land adjacent to the Bay and the major rivers and streams in the region is underlain by unconsolidated deposits, and these deposits are particularly vulnerable to earthquake shaking," USGS Geologist Carl Wentworth said. "Because this is where much of the urban development in the region is located, the new map will be important in the ongoing effort to reduce earthquake risk in the region."

Predicting soil liquidity helps forecast the most likely place for damage. But studying the aftereffects of earthquakes also plays a key role in minimizing damage. Gov. Gray Davis says that is why he put a request into the 2001-02 state budget to spend \$6.8 million every year over the next five years to improve the quake monitoring equipment.

The majority of the funds, according to the University of California at Berkeley, will be spent on deploying more earthquake sensors in Northern California. This would make the state's ShakeMaps, which provide critical information within 5 to 10 minutes after an earthquake, as accurate as those in the southern part of the state.

Lind Gee, a seismologist in the Seismological Laboratory at UC Berkeley, said, "This kind of information is very useful in order to know where to deploy resources, pinpointing areas where the ground shook hardest and thus where the most damage may have occurred."

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EL CERRITO PTA

Bayside Council of PTAs

Feb. 5, Council meeting, 7 pm in the faculty room at Pinole Middle School, 1575 Mann St., Pinole. Agenda will include Parliamentary Procedure Made Easy, convention information, and formation of a nominating committee.

Adams Middle School

Feb. 2, Report cards distributed to students.

Feb. 14, PTA meeting - 7 p.m. in the library

Join Adams PTA - Membership is only \$6. Checks are payable to "Adams PTA". Our next PTA project is to help sponsor a student run store open on Wednesday mornings. Please mail all checks to Adams PTA, 5000 Patterson Circle, Richmond, CA 94805.

The Adams library is collecting empty computer ink jet cartridges (the small ink jet cartridges - black and/or color; no laser cartridges or copier toner cartridges). All proceeds are used to purchase computer-related materials for the library computers. There is a collection bucket in the library on the third floor.

We have received the Albertson's Community Partner cards. Anyone who shops at Albertsons can help us by using the Albertson's Community Partner card. There is no cost to the member. If you are interested in receiving a card, please send a note to the Adams PTA at 5000 Patterson Circle, Richmond, CA 94805 and a card will be sent to you. We are also participating in the Target Guest Card and eScript program. If you are interested in helping, please call the PTA voice message line or send an email message to

cchan2429@aol.com.

PTA Voice Message Line is 510-464-1360, ext 70 - Call this number to hear about upcoming events, Academy updates, minimum day schedules and special dates.

PTA eMail - Weekly PTA bulletins are being sent. Any community members interested in subscribing should send their email address to Connie Chan Kucera at cchan2429@aol.com

Castro Elementary

Feb. 7, 5-8 p.m. - Pizza Night at Pizza Roma (across the parking lot from the El Cerrito Safeway). Dine in or take out, be sure to say it's for Castro and 25 percent of the cost of your order will be donated to the school.

Feb. 10, Gardening Day - 10 a.m. - noon. All are welcome to help us plant bulbs.

Feb. 14, PTA meeting 7:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room.

Feb. 15, Spelling Bee - 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room with a reception following the evening final.

Fundraisers: Castro is enrolled in eScript (ID#137627554), Albertson's, Target, and SchoolPop fundraising programs. Call Peggy Wilcox at 236-0761 to find out how you can benefit Castro when you shop.

El Cerrito High

Feb. 7, GRAD NITE COMMITTEE MEETING - 7:30p.m., Room 812. We need your help. Mark your calendars!

Feb. 8, BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT - 7-8:30p.m. All parents are invited to attend. Parents will follow their student's new class schedule

for this term and listen to teacher presentations. If you have any questions, please call the school office at 525-0234.

REMINDER: If you have not filled out and returned the survey mailed to you by Performance Fax, please do so and return it to the school office. Thank you.

Want to be kept informed of all events, activities, tests date, college info, etc? Join the ECHS e-mail forum. All school notices will be emailed to you. To sign up, please email Joann Steck-Bayat at jsbayat@home.com. Be sure to specify that you would like to be added to the ECHS email forum.

Harding Elementary

Feb. 10, Harding goes Hollywood! Silent and Live Auction in Harding Auditorium. Hollywood memorabilia with celebrity signatures including Sean Penn and Denzel Washington just to name a few. Plus, lots of other goodies. P.S. The catalogue for our silent auction can be viewed online at www.elcerrito.wire.com

Script purchases - contact Holly Winter at 525-0273.

After School Classes include tennis, dance and drama. Call the school at 510-525-0273 or the El Cerrito Community Center for more details.

Kennedy High School

Join the Kennedy PTSA, \$5 - call Marilyn Jamerson at 235-2291 for more information.

Portola Middle School

Feb. 6, Portola Information Night - call 510-524-0405 for more information.

Feb. 15, Valentine's Day cards will be on sale, and any orders to help can be placed at Michele at 526-2278.

Join Portola PTA - Membership. Funds are used to support student programs and activities. We also encourage you to be involved by volunteering. You can check (payable to Portola PTA) Nancy Toombs, Attn: Portola PTA, 8188 Terrace Dr., El Cerrito, CA 94530.

Fundraisers: Portola is enrolled in eScript and Albertson's fundraising programs. Call Peggy Wilcox at 236-0761 to find out how you can benefit Portola while you shop. Center - Monday through Thursday from 3p.m. to 5p.m. at the Community Center. Fee - \$6 per month. Great activities, special events. Call 510-524-0405 for more information.

E-mail forum - scholarship information and meeting notices - your e-mail box. Send your address and request to be on the list to Joann Steck-Bayat at jsbayat@home.com.

WCCUSD Calendar

Feb. 19-23, President's recess. No school for all state employees.

WCCUSD Board of Trustees

Feb. 7, 7-10 p.m. - Kennedy High School cafeteria

Items? Call Linda Takimoto 6183 or email: ltakimoto@yahoo.com

ALBANY PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION NEWS

By Kay Weinstein
CORRESPONDENT

Albany PTA Council

Feb. 11, Albany Education Foundation's Gala Gathering for Great Albany Schools, Christopher's Café on Solano, Dinner Seating at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., \$60 per person. For reservations and more information, call AEF at 558-6823

Albany High School

Interested parents may receive the daily bulletin and important announcements by e-mail. Contact Ruth Gjerde at ruthg@eecs.berkeley.edu.

Feb. 5, PTA Meeting, 7:15 p.m., AHS Library

Feb. 12, Band Boosters Meeting, 6 p.m., AHS Band Room
Feb. 20, Athletic Boosters Meeting, 7 p.m.

SCRIP Orders: If you shop at Safeway or Andronico's, sign up for eScript by calling 1-800-400-7878 or register online at escrip.com. Old Navy is now available from eScript. We are currently out of Albertson's Community Partners cards. Call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782. E-mail Linda at alanhome@lmi.net

Albany Middle School

Interested parents may receive the daily bulletin and important announcements by e-mail. Contact Linda Okamoto at alanhome@lmi.net

Feb. 2, Dance, 7-9 p.m., AMS Gym

Feb. 5, AMS Basketball, 3:45 p.m.

Feb. 8, Site Council Meeting, 6 p.m., AMS Library

Feb. 9, AMS Basketball, 3:45 p.m.

SCRIP Orders: If you shop at Safeway or Andronico's, sign up for eScript by calling 1-800-400-7878 or register online at escrip.com. Old Navy is now available from eScript. We can provide Albertson's Community Partners cards. Call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782.

E-mail Linda at alanhome@lmi.net

REMINDER: Save and turn in General Mills boxtops for education to office. Questions? Call Nancy at 526-1962

Cornell Elementary

Feb. 20, PTA Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

SCRIP sales: Safeway script must be purchased from eScript (1-800-400-7878 or escrip.com). Andronico's script may be purchased from eScript, or paper script may be purchased at school. Natural Grocery and Berkeley Bowl paper SCRIPs for sale in the office.

Marin Elementary School

Feb. 22, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Marin Multi-Purpose Room

Berkeley Bowl, Ranch 99 Market, Natural Grocery and Andronico's paper SCRIP for sale Monday and Friday mornings from 8:30 to 9 and 9:30 to 10 a.m. Orders can be placed in office at any time. Albert-

son's Community Partners Cards available at these times. Safeway, Whole Foods and Andronico's electronic scrip must be purchased from eScript (1-800-400-7878 or escrip.com).

Marin School account number is 136951780.

REMINDER: Save and turn in General Mills boxtops for education to office.

Ocean View Elementary

Feb. 22, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Ocean View Library

SCRIP for sale in the office. Safeway scrip must be purchased from eScript (1-800-400-7878 or escrip.com). Andronico's scrip may be purchased from eScript, or paper scrip may be purchased at school. We are now selling paper scrip from Ranch 99 Market.

RECYCLE used computer printer cartridges from your home or office. Look for bins in the library soon.

AUSD Board of Education

Feb. 7, Special Meeting view Proposed Program/Conductions, 7:30 p.m., Ocean Multi-Purpose Room

Feb. 13, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room

AUSD Calendar

Feb. 16, President's School

Feb. 19, President's School

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Kensington police program looks after older residents

Two-year-old program provides friendship and increased supervision

By Kate Darby Rauch
STAFF WRITER

KENSINGTON — Officer Angela Escobar steps out of the patrol car, checks his holster and shines a flashlight on the narrow, dark path leading up to the house. The night is cold and quiet. Escobar, a one-year veteran of the Kensington Police Department, is on patrol. But she's not chasing bad guys or sniffing out crime. At least not at the moment.

Instead, she's making her way to a house at the top of the path, where in a few minutes she'll be talking it up with 94-year-old Julius Palfy-Alpar and listening to his tales of times gone by.

She'll check his refrigerator to make sure he has food and check his thermostat. And she'll comfort his nerves about growing old.

Escobar, 35, is the officer in charge of the Kensington police's senior program, an effort to ensure the safety of the community's elderly residents.

Many police departments can't afford an all-out focus on seniors because they need officers free to handle crime. But things are usually very quiet in Kensington, an unincorporated hillside community of about 5,000 nestled between El Cerrito and Berkeley. The little crime that occurs here is usually from car accidents or speeders.

That means the department's 10 officers are free to concentrate more on community outreach. And because roughly 23 percent of Kensington's population is over 65 — the highest per capita rate in Contra Costa County — police have targeted seniors as a group in need.

She really tried to look at what the community wants and what the community needs," said Chief Barry Field, who launched the program last year with the department's 14 years.

"I've seen the aging of the community," Garfield said. "Because we're unincorporated, we don't get the city (senior) services here. I've seen people fall through the cracks. If we were really busy, this probably would not be possible."

Before the Kensington program was two years ago, Garfield saw just how isolated and vulnerable the town's frail elderly were. A woman fell out of her wheelchair and was stranded for a few minutes until someone saw her through a window and called the police. Another elderly couple couldn't take care of themselves anymore and didn't know they had any options. Others became clouded by dementia and stopped answering the phone or the phone even as garbage and newspapers stacked up outside. There have been enough of those

kinds of problems to constitute a community concern, Garfield said. "We are the most obvious government agency up here to deal with what I perceive as a growing problem," he said.

The senior program works with just a few simple elements. First, seniors are encouraged to fill out emergency forms with the Police Department, listing medical information and emergency contacts.

They're also invited to give the department a copy of their house key and the code to their burglar alarm so that the police have easy access in case of emergency and pertinent information on residents.

About 50 people have enrolled in the program since it began, Garfield said.

Then there is Escobar. She knows hundreds of seniors in town and attends lunches at the senior center, held in a local church. She also makes regular visits to people's homes and is on call.

As part of the program, Escobar — who is studying for a nursing degree to complement, but not replace, her policing duties — makes regular home visits to elderly residents who want or need them.

People hear about the service through word-of-mouth and from Escobar's visits to community events.

"The seniors make police work real to me," Escobar said. "I'm giving to the community and I'm learning a lot, too. They teach me patience, compassion and love."

Her senior work has been hindered a bit by a recent schedule change to the graveyard shift, from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m., she said. But she tries to find time for seniors, with support from the chief. And there's some flexibility with her schedule, she said.

She used to visit one to two seniors a day; with the shift change it's more like one or two per week, she said.

An officer in Davis for four years before moving to the Bay Area, Escobar said she was utterly jazzed when Garfield asked if she would like the senior beat.

"A lot of cops want to do the rough 'em up, chase 'em down stuff, but this is me, this is what I want to do, this seems to be my mission in life," she said.

She's given talks on fraud against the elderly. She's hooked people up with in-home nursing care and Meals on Wheels. She's arranged tours of retirement homes.

She's held many a wrinkled hand, and listened.

"They have needs people don't see," she said.

All officers on the force are trained to work with the elderly and are prepared to do so when there's a need. But Escobar is the only one assigned specifically to the senior program.

"Call me anytime you need,

Julius, and you know I'll be calling you," Escobar tells Palfy-Alpar as she leaves his house one recent evening.

He is frail and his eyesight is failing, but he manages living alone for now. Neighbors and friends look in, in addition to the police.

His wife moved to a nursing home last year. It's a sadness that Palfy-Alpar is still adjusting to, Escobar said.

She first met Palfy-Alpar and his wife when neighbors called the police and asked them to look in on the elderly couple.

"We had not enough connection with people," Palfy-Alpar said.

Bay Area senior organizations and other police departments say the Kensington program sounds unique, and a wonderful idea to copy, if money allows.

"It sounds like a really good idea; I do wish we had the resources," said Chief Dan Lawrence of the Orinda police.

Orinda, with a population of 17,000 and 17 police officers, is larger than Kensington and has fewer officers per capita. But 16 percent of its residents are elderly, making seniors a significant segment of the population.

Lawrence said his department's community policing program includes some of the same services that Kensington offers its seniors, such as identifying residents with medical needs and educating seniors about fraud.

Still, he said, "It gives me some ideas."

Jane Moore, volunteer coordinator of Senior Outreach Services, a nonprofit organization providing visitors and other assistance, said the Kensington program is beneficial in several ways. It provides a much-needed service to seniors, while enhancing community spirit and boosting the image of the police, Moore said.

"They're not only doing great things in the community, but they're also doing great things for their image," she said.

Moore, who works in Senior Outreach's Richmond office, said she's trying to find ways to get police and fire departments more involved with seniors.

Kensington resident Viola Chang, 87, says other cities could take a lesson from this small town.

Chang, who lives alone, receives regular home visits from Escobar but has also come to know many of the other Kensington officers.

Chang has a way with locking herself out of the house, Escobar said with a tender smile during a recent stop at Chang's house. Then there was an oven fire. And strange noises one night.

"I have good protection from my fireman and policeman," Chang said, grinning and clutching Escobar's arm. "Kensington is No. 1."



'Building bridges to stop violence'

Youth forum seeks to engage community in solutions to violence

Mark your calendars for a special forum to be held on Wednesday, Feb. 28, from 6-8 p.m. in the Bermuda Room at the Richmond Auditorium.

Organized by Youth Together in collaboration with a variety of civic and faith-based organizations, the forum seeks to bring students and adults together in a common dialogue to end community violence.

Speaking to the West County Mayors and Supervisors Association, Richmond High School student Fahm Tsing Saephanh said, "Students are working hard to bring together people from all ethnic groups to look for solutions."

She noted that students have been working actively to seek adoption by the district of a multi-cultural studies course and that many felt at least

West County School Watch

By Glen Price

part of the solution to violence is prevention through positive after school and weekend activities for children and youth.

I'll have more details on this event in the weeks ahead.

Harding Goes Hollywood

Find something special for Valentine's Day or just bring the whole family for a delicious desert from a top bay area bakery. Come to the "Harding Goes Hollywood" silent and live auction on Saturday Feb. 10 from 6:30-9 p.m. in the Harding auditorium at 7230 Fairmount Ave. Admission is free and everyone is welcome. Proceeds benefit Harding Elementary music and science programs. At 6:30 the silent auction tables open and you'll have the chance to bid on over 200 items donated by

local businesses, museums and performing arts groups. How about tickets the San Francisco Symphony or ACT? a wine country balloon tour? passes to all major Bay Area science museums, art museums and zoos?

At 7:45 the tables close and live bidding will begin on celebrity donated Hollywood memorabilia. Be the only one in your neighborhood to own a video of "To Kill a Mockingbird" signed by Gregory Peck" or the script to "Dead Man Walking" signed by Sean Penn. To view a complete catalogue log onto www.elcerritowire.com. Don't miss a one of a kind evening!

Want to receive West County School Watch and other action alerts on local school issues delivered to your email address? Send the message "Subscribe" to pak-glen@aol.com. Back issues of West County School Watch and other sundry items can be found on the West County School Watch web site: www.igc.org/westcounty/

Voci Women's Choral Ensemble offers a vocal valentine on Sunday

As Valentine's Day draws near, VOCI Women's Choral Ensemble is planning what it calls "a sumptuous musical feast for Bay Area classical music lovers."

Divine love is often seen as divorced from the senses, but in these concerts, called "From the fixed place in Heaven she saw Time," this critically acclaimed performance group celebrates the marriage of sacred and secular themes in a varied program of choral works from the Medieval, Renaissance, Post-Ro-

mantic, and 20th-Century periods.

The ensemble comes to Berkeley on Sunday, Feb. 4, at 4 p.m. at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way.

Tickets are \$20, \$17 and \$15 and there is a discount for groups of 10 or more. Tickets are available at the door or call 415-982-6425.

This season's treasures include Claude Debussy's breathtaking "La Demoiselle Elue," which is a setting of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's famous

poem describing an erotically charged vision of Heaven; Jacob Obrecht's "Missa De Tous Biens Playne," a mass based on the music of a secular courtly-love song;

Gustav Holst's wild and thrilling "Hymn to Dionysus," in which the god's female followers sing his praises and celebrate their orgiastic religious rituals; and Hildegard of Bingen's transcendent work, "O Ignis Spiritus." New works by Nina Egert and Nathaniel Lew will also be performed.

Kindergarten open house set for Feb. 15 at Harding Elementary

EL CERRITO — Harding Elementary School invites parents of next fall's incoming kindergarteners to an open house from 7 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15 in the auditorium of the school at 7230 Fairmount

Ave. at Ashbury.

Classrooms will be open, parents can meet with kindergarten and first grade teachers and childcare will be provided.

E-mail submissions to the Journal at journal@cctimes.com, fax them to 510-644-1735 or mail them to P.O. Box 1624, El Cerrito, 94530

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Gamelan

FROM PAGE A1

The show is a single dramatic work based on a legend that surrounds the birth of a dance form in Bali. Their February performance of "Kawit Legong: Prince Karna's Dream," directed by Ellen Sebastian Chang, is the group's most elaborate yet. Not only is there a larger cast, including a greater number of guests artists from Bali than in previous years, but the show also incorporates larger-than-life puppet shadows by Shadow Light Productions.

The cast of musicians and dancers will team up with members of STSI Denpasar, Bali's National Academy of the Arts, and an orchestra consisting of bronze metallophones, gongs, drums and bamboo flutes.

Vitale remarked, "We've pulled out the stops for this one."

There are more than 80 gamelan groups in the United States, but Vitale tries to keep his productions fresh. "It's a dialog between what is traditional and what's adapted for here," he said.

Although this hybrid style is a 20th-century phenomenon, the original art form is many centuries old. "Like classical music, the music is quite sophisticated, but pieces are constantly reworked and readapted, like jazz here," he said.

The gamelan music and dance form is allied with the Hindu religion, but it cuts across economic and class boundaries. In Bali, for example, gamelan competitions draw people by the thousands, Vitale explained.

A number of elements separate this show from past performances, beginning with the fact that it's taking place at Zellerbach.

The story tells of the creation of the delicate legong, or "dance of the celestial nymphs," first seen in a meditative dream by the 19th-century Balinese Prince Karna.

The presentation will seek to highlight contrasting aspects of the Balinese universe, from the "seen" world of humans to the "unseen" magic world of the gods, through the eyes of the prince.

Group has evolved over the years After inhabiting a series of locations, Gamelan Sekar Jaya finally found a home in north El Cerrito 12 years ago.

It was the first location where the

sound produced by a large orchestra could be contained. "At all previous locations we had problems with sound and neighbors," he said.

Born out of a workshop with some Cal students, Gamelan Sekar Jaya now survives on a number of grants.

Though the membership has evolved over the years, the all-volunteer ensemble has continued to grow. "At first, I couldn't afford to bring Balinese artists regularly," recalled Vitale, the only paid member.

They've performed countless times in Berkeley, often at the Julia Morgan Theater, but never in such an extensive production.

Founded in 1979, Gamelan Sekar Jaya's has performed in theaters from New York City to remote Balinese villages.

The group has made its mark in Bali, as well. When Gamelan Sekar Jaya first brought their ensemble to the country of its origin, they were terrified. "We thought we would be laughed off the stage," he said.

Instead, the crowd went crazy, and the rest was history.

"They were stunned by the fact that we had a mixture of men and women," recalled Vitale, which has contributed to more female participation in Bali, as well.

The group has presented more than 300 concerts throughout California and has toured throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and Bali.

Both its Balinese guest directors and, more recently, the American artists who make up the organization have created over 50 new works for gamelan and dance.

On tour in Bali this past July, Gamelan Sekar Jaya received a Dharma Kusuma award, Bali's highest honor for artistic achievement, never before awarded to a foreign group.

The ensemble is also known for collaborating with other Bay Area performers.

Oakland East Bay Symphony, the California Symphony, and Keith Terry's Crosspulse, a Bay Area quintet are among local groups that have collaborated with Gamelan over the last few years.

Next on the agenda is finding a way to keep Kawit Legong, their latest creation, alive.

"We would like to remount the piece in a year or so, but that would take a lot of long-range planning and funding," he said.

day, the friends we make. And being able to serve and help these people."

"The community will miss Richard Haugner," Murdo said. "He has been a great resource for many." This certainly sums up the feeling of all those who had the privilege of knowing this man as both friend and protector for so many years.

Revenue

FROM PAGE A1

ing the third quarter. After estimated late payments are added in, the total comes to \$578,097.

"Basically our economy here is staying strong at least through that

Traffic

FROM PAGE A1

side of the main Marin Avenue stretch, and almost a fifth of that has been absorbed by other projects, like Marin signal improvements.

"We're here because we'd like to see something happen," said commissioner Lubov Mazur.

There may be nothing to see quite yet. Though the meeting was not intended for discussion, council members heard their concerns Monday and said the item will be on their agenda in the next few months.

Project

FROM PAGE A1

"Each development in El Cerrito is a function of how successful previous development has been," he said.

A 162-unit, six-building apartment complex is envisioned for the four parcels that used to be the mill and lumberyard site. Two-story and three-story buildings are planned. About 6,881 square feet of ground floor retail, mostly along San Pablo Avenue, is part of the planned project. Twenty-six of the apartments are planned as live/work units to be occupied by small-format office users.

Members of the Economic Development Board and others in the city have said they would like more commercial/retail space included in the plans. Others, including the city's Committee on Aging, say that the project should include some below-market-rate apartment units to receive city approval.

Economic Development Board Chairman Joseph Grossman said ear-

lier this week that there is no official board position on the commercial/retail question. "There's a general consensus that we want a higher ratio of commercial and retail to housing, but we haven't stated a board position yet," Grossman said. "I think all of us want it, but to what degree and how we want to state it hasn't been set."

In a December appeal to the City Council, the Committee on Aging asked the council to review and address the question of affordable housing in the city and in the proposed project.

"It is a rare opportunity that this type of development is taking place in El Cerrito, and we do not want to forget the commitment made to the less fortunate and elderly of our community," said a committee statement to the council.

"JMS has presented it to the community and asked for input; JMS is getting input," said Mayor Larry Damon. "They are probably going to do with that input the best they can. Whether it's sufficient or not will be determined in the permitting process and possibly by an appeal. I want to

see the process work." The project needs Planning Commission and Design Review Board approval, and decisions by these two boards can be appealed to the City Council.

"We have an opportunity here to convert an industrial site, a mill, to a higher and better use in the middle of town, which I think needs more attention," Damon said.

He said questions about increased commercial/retail and subsidized housing as part of the project are not currently on the council's agenda. "We want to see what happens during the permitting process prior to the time that it comes before the council, if it comes before the council."

The mill and lumber project should come before the council when it is functioning as the city's Redevelopment Agency board.

"Our redevelopment plan says that any project in the redevelopment area needs to have an owner's participation agreement, which has to be approved by the redevelopment agency,"

ware, Safeway Stores, Target Stores and Truway Stores.

"We're all still benefiting from a very good economy," said Interim City Manager Susan Westman about the revenue numbers. "For El Cerrito, I think some of the new businesses like Staples and the Home furniture store are doing quite well. As they do better, the city of El Cerrito also benefits because tax goes up."

"The time you'll see the jump that will hopefully be when the line will be when the new line opens up," Westman said. "My hope is that their business will increase."

Residents have the rest of the month to hand in their letters for possible measures.

And getting the early ball mean being the worst. But mean prioritized according to the urgency, and mean also a list of some 50 possibilities has mapped out. Residents City Hall to pick up petitions view the list. Feb. 28 is the deadline for handing in an application.

"This is still a prior of the beginning to explore other sources," said Chaney, who the first application last year want folks to know their situation."

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Retire

FROM PAGE A5

crime or violence as it once did, according to Haugner. "It used to be pretty wild," he recalls. "There were many more bars and lots of fights on Friday and Saturday night and after hours." Until relatively recently a motel on San Pablo Avenue: now an apartment building; was notorious for prostitutes and drugs despite police surveillance and raids. And after extensive effort, police succeeded in cleaning up a bowling alley infested by gangs dealing drugs and fighting turf wars.

Along with the changing trends in types of crime: purse snatching was once big but now auto burglaries are far more popular. Haugner has noted a change in perpetrator's attitudes. "It used to be when you caught them they knew they had it coming," he says. "Now they act as though they are being mistreated, claim they're being harassed."

After three decades of keeping the peace, Haugner is ready to turn the task over to others. The problem is finding qualified people in a prosperous economy where other careers pay more and do not involve the risks of police work. The high cost of housing in this area also discourages new recruits. "An entry level officer can't afford to live in Albany," Haugner says.

"When I tested there were hundreds of candidates," he recalls. "Now we get very few." His views are shared by Albany Chief Larry Murdo who also complains of the paucity and low quality of applicants, some of whom have been charged with crimes themselves. But so far Albany has been able to attract good officers, although retaining them is also a problem, according to the chief.

Haugner looks forward to leaving these worries behind him and spending more time in El Sobrante with his wife, Sandra, his black lab Munchkin, whom he calls, "my running partner," and his 20-year old daughter, Cristina, a sophomore at St. Mary's College.

As yet Haugner has not made a decision about further employment, but says he has, "a lot of irons in the fire." One option is property management and maintenance.

Mostly he looks forward to hiking, camping, and mountain climbing with his wife, as well as completing restoration of a classic 1955 Chevy two-door. He has restored many old cars including 1929 and 1938 Chevys and a 1932 Ford, most popular of all hot rods.

Asked what he will miss most about the job the veteran officer responds without hesitation: "The people. The people we meet every

Creek

FROM PAGE A1

Community development director Ann Chaney explained the difference to the council at a meeting last week.

"That is, one alternative presented a creek restoration project within the existing right-of-way, while the second alternative presented a fully restored creek as if the existing right-of-way (and existing) structures were not a constraint," she said.

Local interest in restoring the creek increased last spring, when a UC bi-

ologist discovered enough steelhead in the creek to make spawning a possibility.

Environmental groups and officials from both cities want to protect what's left of the creek's natural flow. They also hope to develop a half-mile trail on its north bank, from San Pablo to the railroad tracks, where both cities are developing ball fields. Other changes in the study include revisions to text and maps, said Chaney.

Albany's portion of the money has come from several different sources, including the city's Open Space, Recreational Playfields and Creek Restoration Assessment funds.



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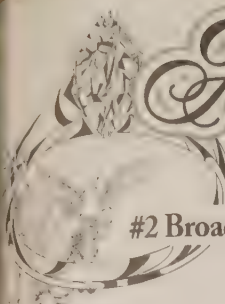
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Scott's will be holding their annual Bridal Fair on February 22, 2001. There will be 40 different vendors at this gala event. There is no admission fee however, you do need to R.S.V.P.

Scott's Restaurant in Jack London Square has elegant waterfront rooms. Scott's will provide the perfect setting for your wedding reception, bar/bat mitzvahs, corporate and social events. The catering staff at Scott's are ready to assist you with every detail to help make your event a special and memorable occasion.

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For nearly 25 years, the phenomenal success of Scott's Seafood Restaurant has brought two popular locations to the East Bay. Originally opened as a traditional seafood restaurant in San Francisco, Scott's has continued to serve its guests in Walnut Creek and Jack London Square.

Scott's Seafood Restaurant serves only the finest, freshly prepared cuisine, with a professional courteous staff ready to make your dining experience a memorable occasion. Whether you visit us for lunch, dinner or Champagne Jazz Brunch, your dining experience promises to be as delicious as it is pleasurable.

But our success as one of the East Bay's premier dining destinations doesn't stop with our restaurants. Scott's also offers exclusive Banquet and Off-Site Catering. Choose from one of Scott's four banquet rooms in Walnut Creek or three banquet rooms at Jack London Square. You can be sure that the service you receive will be as professional as the food is delicious.

In addition to our banquet rooms, Scott's provides Catering and is the exclusive caterer to the famous Blackhawk Auto Museum in Danville and a scenic bay-front property, Scott's Pavilion in Jack London Square. Whether you seek full-service, professional catering for special events such as weddings, meetings, or other occasions, Scott's can take care of every detail even for kosher events.

Banquet Service

Scott's will provide the perfect

setting for your wedding reception, corporate or social event. We are ready to assist you with every detail to help make your event a most special and memorable occasion. Complete event planning, floral decorations, audio-visual arrangements and valet parking are just some of the services that

Scott's provides. Choose from beautifully appointed private banquet rooms and a tented

pavilion that can accommodate up to 600 guests.

Located in the heart of Oakland's historic Jack London Square, Scott's banquet facilities are a perfect choice for your wedding, meeting or social event. Our professional banquet and catering manager will assure that your special occasion is flawless from beginning to end. We offer full-service banquet facilities, complete with a choice of menu selections, professional

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Located next to Scott's Restaurant, Scott's Pavilion is specially designed for large events. It allows your guests to enjoy an unsurpassed view of Oakland's port along with sit-down accommodations for up to 600 guests. Famous in its own right Scott's Pavilion is the obvious choice for large events mingled with infinite possibilities.

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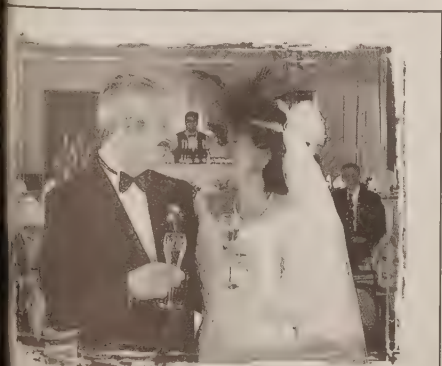
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These days, no self-respecting resort, hotel or luxury inn would be caught dead without a spa. These body-pampering emporiums usually have a gym, a pool and a menu of sensible-to-downright silly health and beauty therapies.

While on the road, Mary Ann and I use the gym and pool, but generally pass on everything else. On a recent trip to the wine country, however, we decided to finally treat ourselves to some spa treatments. We opted for facials for both of us, a much-needed deep tissue massage for me and a citrus salt scrub for her.

Before I go forward, you should know something. I always thought the benefits of a costly spa treatment would be lost on a slug like me. I get bored in a whirlpool bath. Plus, the silliness factor of some of them leaves me cold. For instance, in Dallas, a hotel spa will baste you in a Pineapple Crunch Marinade. You can get a Chocolate Fondue Wrap in Hershey, Pa., or a Chocolate-Raspberry Pedicure in Vancouver. And at the Grand Spa in Las Vegas, one can order a Pina Coloda Scrub. (Do they put a little cocktail umbrella in your hair?)

Happily, I can report our experience was terrific. We wisely chose the spa at Meadowood Napa Valley (800-458-8080). It was not intimidating and, for a luxury property, delightfully understated. To my surprise, I really enjoyed the treatments. Debby introduced new life into my aching neck and shoulders, and Tiffany, while not changing my appearance for the better, made my face feel — for lack of a better term — cheeky.

Part of the charm of this spa is its location. Meadowood is a 250-acre, forested valley on the east side of the Silverado Trail in St. Helena. It has all the amenities a resort needs to be a Relais & Chateaux property and then some. Scattered amongst the trees are 85 cottages and suites. Besides the spa complex, there's a wine center, a challenging nine-hole golf course, tennis courts and two professional croquet lawns. For something different, I recommend taking a wine course from the entertaining humanities professor-turned-wine educator, John Thoreen, and a croquet lesson from their resident pro with the NFL lineman body, Jerry Stark. Be advised, this is not your standard backyard croquet.

Although we are great fans of casual dining, one evening we dressed up and made an evening of it at The Restaurant at Meadowood. Manager Todd Christian and Chef de Cuisine Steve Tevere orchestrated an evening of sheer dining pleasure. Steve's dishes are inventive and truly represent California Wine Country Cuisine.

Todd's choice of wines were right on the mark. To the restaurant's credit, everyone in the dining room that evening could walk away feeling they had received the undivided attention of Todd and Steve.

Interestingly, Meadowood Napa Valley describes itself as a country estate. Actually, once on the property, you do get the feeling you've been invited to be there. There is an air of clubby exclusivity about the place, but it is not off-putting. The friendly, professional staff sees to that. It's a pleasure to know such a woodsy hideaway exists so close to home. When we visit, we spend all our time there. Wine-tasting and dining around the valley can wait for another visit.

On our way home, we stopped at Dean & DeLuca (800-221-7714) on Highway 29 in south St. Helena. Our plan was to find something for a Sunday brunch. We learned a good lesson. This is not a store to enter while hungry. It's an absolute assault on the senses. There's a dizzying array of cheeses, wine, oils, meat, baked goods, candies and other such yummy items, as well as kitchenware. But who's checking out pots and pans when brunch beckons? Besides our brunch and a few extra treats, we picked up their Valentine's Day catalogue of gifts which you might find inspiring.

Cheers!

■ In a previous column, I asked for restaurant tips. Carolyn Marchetti from Kelseyville raves about La Salette (707-938-1927) on Highway 12 in Sonoma. Leo dos Remedios likes the seafood crepe at Chez Simone (510-655-1034) on Piedmont Avenue in Oakland.

Mike Cleary's column appears twice monthly in this newspaper. He and his wife, Mary Ann, co-host "The Good and Travel Enthusiasts" radio program at 10 a.m. Sundays on KABL, 960 AM. Readers can e-mail Mike at mcleary@960kabl.com.

New family center opens at Downtown Berkeley YMCA

The sounds of hammering and drills have stopped, the finishing touches have been made and the doors to the new family center at the Downtown Berkeley YMCA are open. The center was dedicated by Mayor Shirley Dean at ceremonies Jan. 11.

The new center will provide parenting information for all families and special programs for families with disabilities, foster families, and pregnant teens and teen mothers. The new area will also include a reading loft, computer learning area,

play area with tricycles, private resting area for infants, and a Counseling Center for parents.

"We are proud of the new family center," said Fran Gallati, Executive Director of the Downtown Berkeley YMCA. "It helps us serve the whole family. Parents can enjoy the benefits of swimming, yoga, fitness classes, or weight training, as their children read, learn computers, or take on a physical challenge in our play areas."

The Downtown YMCA is at 2001 Allston Way at Milvia Street.



TODDLERS Anna Horby-Merrifield, left, and Ally Burnham, right, play in the play area of the new Center at the downtown Berkeley YMCA.

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Real Estate & Home

Advertising supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclairian, The Piedmonter

February 2, 2001

Section B

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B9]

203(k) loan covers both price and renovations

203(k) mortgage was born in 1978, but it is now being used more by buyers wanting to fix up a home

By Judy Rose

WOLFF RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

DETROIT — The last people to own this little Craftsman-style house were born at the start of the 20th century. They stayed here 64 years, raised their children, saw grandchildren, then great-grandchildren. When the surviving wife died, the house was sold to be fixed up by buyers from the 21st century.

They were David Castano, a computer programmer and amateur classical pianist, and Scott Vincen, of Detroit Hospital's legal affairs department, an amateur house restorer. They bought what was a house with a cute Hansel-and-Gretel exterior, a natural fireplace, heavy woodwork, real multicolored windowpanes, and plaster ceilings, but one badly needed major restoration. The basement walls were bowing, the concrete porch was crumbling, the huge old octopus-shaped furnace almost blocked the



DAVID CASTANO, left, and Scott Vincen obtained a 203(k) loan to remodel the kitchen and replace the siding of a home they're buying.

basement stairs. Air-conditioning? Forget it. The house was wired with just 30 amps of electricity, not the 100-200 commonly used today. The kitchen — tiny in any case — was almost unusable, with cabinets hung so low a tall person chopping onions on the counter couldn't see his or her hands.

Luckily, the house is in Ferndale, Mich., where it seems every fifth house is being improved, and neighborhood values are shooting up. Spending money to restore it made sense.

Luckily there's a mortgage just right for the job — the one called

203(k). Under a 203(k), one single mortgage covers both the money to buy a house and the money to fix it. It has FHA's low down payment and generous lending guidelines.

The 203(k) mortgage was born in 1978, but people used to hate it. Even for a government process, it was clumsy and frustrating. House sellers and their real estate agents found it added three to six months to the time it took to close a sale.

But in the past few years, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

see LOAN on page B2

Oakland Association of Realtors honors Nicholas as Realtor of the Year

By Dennis Evanovsky

SECTION EDITOR

The Realtor of the Year designation is nothing new to Helen Nicholas, a broker at La Salle Properties in Oakland's Montclair Village.

She is, however, the only current member of the Oakland Association of Realtors who has laid claim to the title twice.

The last time her fellow Realtors honored her was 20 years ago — in 1981 — when the Oakland Association of Realtors was known as the Oakland Board of Realtors.

Nicholas began her career in real estate in 1975, just a year after she moved to Oakland's Montclair District, where she still resides.

Two years into her career, in 1977, she got involved as a mentor with the Chi Omega sorority at the University of California at Berkeley.

This remains her single largest commitment outside the real estate industry, and the one in which she is clearly the proudest.

"I've seen an entire generation grow up before my eyes," she said. "I spend every Monday evening during the school year as a mentor to these sorority members. I help them with my knowledge of the business world and with leadership development."

Over the years, Nicholas has



DENNIS EVANOVSKY

THE OAKLAND ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS has named Helen Nicholas of La Salle Properties in Montclair Village as its Realtor of the Year.

served the industry as state director, a Political Action Committee trustee and as a regional chairman for the California Association of Realtors.

On the local level, she has worn the hats of the president, vice president, treasurer, director and

committee chair for the Oakland Association of Realtors.

"We congratulate Helen on this great honor, and know that she will live up to the task as she has done over the years I have worked with her," said La Salle Properties' broker Phil Weingrow.

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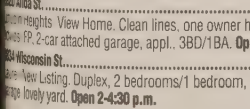
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Upper Rockridge. Enchanted Home. This updated 3-BD, 3-BA traditional home has a newer eat-in kitchen which opens to a large deck & magical garden. Open 2-5 Michael Thompson



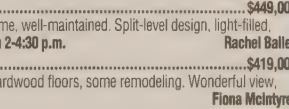
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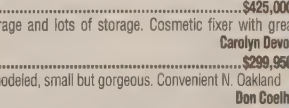
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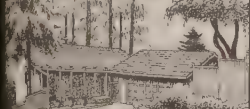
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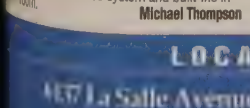
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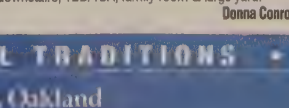
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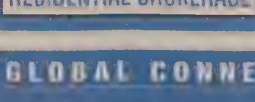
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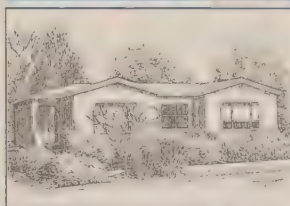
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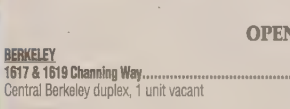
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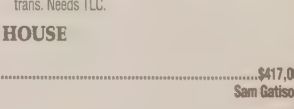
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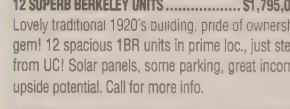
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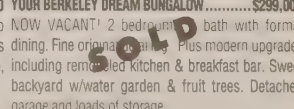
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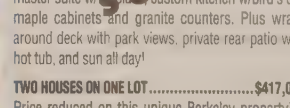
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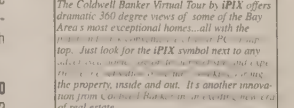
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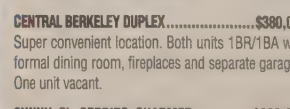
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News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

ATTENTION PUBLIC

Alameda Inform Meeting

The Inform Meeting is open to the public and hosted by the Alameda Association of Realtors. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month. This month's meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 13, begins at 8:45 a.m.

The location is the Harbor Bay Community Center on McCarty Road, in Alameda. The focus of each meeting is an invited speaker and the discussion of important real estate, economic and community topics.

February's speaker is the superintendent of schools. The Inform is dedicated to helping realtors stay informed about the real estate market, the community and issues that affect the economy. For more information call Connie Hanna of Harbor Bay Realty at 510-814-4814.

Help With Home Buying

Home Buyer 101 is presented by facilitators, Karen Ward of RE Loan Mortgage in Albany and Grace Bishop of Red Oak Realty, Real Estate Finance 101 is for first-time homebuyers, with a soup to nuts summary of all aspects of homebuying. Demystify the purchase process and become an educated consumer.

Attendees will become learn about loan choices and closing costs. The class is available at no cost. The next date is Saturday, Feb. 3 from 10 a.m. to noon.

For reservations call the Workshop Hotline at 510-718-2134.

Attend Homebuying The First-Time, a free first-time homebuyers seminar. Michael J. Smith & Associates Real Estate Company will present this seminar several times a month.

The seminar covers a variety of topics, including no money down purchases. Register today by calling 510-430-8484. Information on future seminars is available.

Free Senior Care Guide

Georgia Richardson of Richardson Real Estate Services is offering New Lifestyles, an area guide to senior residences and care options. Guides are available for the San Francisco Bay or the Sacramento/North Bay areas.

To obtain a complimentary issue, contact Richardson at 510-569-3499.

Real Estate Careers

Have you ever wondered about a career in real estate? Want to know what it takes? What type of schooling is involved? How do I prepare for the exam?

The answers to your questions are available through the Noble Fields School of Real Estate.

For more information call the Oakland office at 510-451-7977 or the main office, in San Francisco at 415-956-6169.

OAR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS TRAINING

The Oakland Association of Realtors presents a Professional Standards Training Friday, Feb. 9. The program is being held at the OAR Auditorium on Webster Street in Oakland, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

The cost is \$40 and will include materials and optional DRE credit hours. Program highlights include A Licensee's Guide to Ethics & Professional Standards and A Licensee's Guide to Mediation, Arbitration & Procuring Cause.

Judith Herzberg will be the Trainer. Herzberg is a practicing attorney. She has served as assistant general counsel with the California Association of Realtors and conducts workshops, nationwide.

Reservations are today is the last day to register. For reservations and information call Judith Boren at OAR, 510-836-3003.

BAR TIMELY TOPICS LUNCHEON

The Berkeley Association of Realtors holds a networking luncheon, twice monthly. Luncheon speakers focus on timely topics of an informational or educational nature.

The next luncheon will be held Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 12:15 p.m. The BAR Auditorium is the location.

The speakers are California Association of Realtors Directors, just returned from a state meeting in Monterey.

The discussion topics include legal and legislative updates. Reservations are always a necessity. For more information call the BAR office at 510-848-4288.

TECH FAIR 2001 PLANNED

Through the joint efforts of four boards of Realtors a five day event, Tech Faire 2001 is planned for March.

The participating associations of Realtors are Alameda, Oakland, West Contra Costa and Delta.

There will be five days of training for real estate professionals. The purpose is to educate Realtors on today's computer technology relating to the industry. The Fair concludes with a vendor trade show.

The fair is scheduled to run from Monday, March 26 through Friday, March 30. Watch this column for more details or call your local association.

BROKERS WANTED

Bob Valva of Valva Realty invites Oakland real estate brokers to attend the Oakland Realtors Commercial & Industrial Brokers Committee.

"The 20-member group was appointed years ago by the Oakland mayor, to facilitate city sales and leasing," said Valva.

Their purpose is to help build Oakland. The committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the OAR Building on Webster.

If you need more information or would like to attend call Valva at 510-451-7317.

Credit Worthy



By Bobbie Reid

ATTENTION MORTGAGE PROFESSIONALS

The California Association of Residential Lenders (CARL) strives to keep mortgage professionals educated and informed. CARL conducts a monthly dinner meeting, with guest speakers discussing timely topics.

The meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month beginning with networking at 6 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 8, at the Crow Canyon Country Club. A guest speaker panel will discuss 'What's New In The Industry?'

Panel members will consist of Lender Representatives from Fleet Mortgage, People's Choice, Countrywide, Oakmont Suntrust HLC Financial and Colonial Savings.

To find out more call the organization's hotline. The CAMB Hotline is 925-275-2663.

WHO'S ON FIRST

Denise Smith of Royal Realtors and Loan Services wears many hats. In addition to conducting the business of her full service real estate company, she is the 2001 President of the Women's Council of Realtors and a TV talk show host the call-in show provides viewers with real estate tips and information.

The show entitled *Do To Dream* airs Saturday mornings, at 11 a.m. on Channel 27. The program can be viewed on the Internet at Soulbeat.com. Smith is reachable at 510-482-8200.

Catherine Hays of Fleet Mortgage is the 2001 President of the California Association of Residential Lenders East Bay Chapter.

Hays is a Lender Representative and covers Alameda County, as well as other California areas. To say congrats call Hays at 1-888-207-5381.

Jean Powers is a member of the new board of directors for the Bay East Association of Realtors. Powers will represent the central county.

She is a Realtor with Harbor Bay Realty in Alameda. Powers can be reached at 510-523-1144.

SO LET US ALL IN ON IT

I need your information for this column. Fundraisers, meetings, announcements, promotions, designations and change of scenery (company). I want to know it all. Information deadline is the Friday before publication. Fax your info to me at 510-441-7191 or call me at 510-581-4080.

Bobbie Reid is a freelance writer and columnist. She is a California real estate licensee and an active affiliate member of the industry since 1988.

Loan

FROM PAGE B1

Development has reworked the 203(k) until it's virtually no slower than a conventional mortgage.

Meantime, around the country house prices have shot up so fast in the past five years that many buyers can't afford the house they'd like. The 203(k) lets them buy a bargain fixer-upper and know they'll have money to repair it.

The 203(k) is the hero of the moment, popping up in greater numbers than ever before. Buyers who might be priced out of today's expensive market get a house. Neighborhood eyesores get restored, raising everyone's house value.

Sellers who have a house in need of repair have begun to like it, too, says Clifford (Skip) Confer, Flagstar Bank's 203(k) specialist. "It's the only mortgage that lets you close the house sale, then do the repairs afterward."

Sometimes the neglect has been slow and gentle, like the house bought by Castano and Vincen. Sometimes it's fast and brutal abuse, like some repossessed HUD homes. The important detail is this: After the improvements are done, the house should be worth at least its purchase price, plus the cost to fix it.

The house does not have to be falling down. It could just need paint, carpet and a better bathroom. The minimum is \$5,000.

"You can't do luxury items, like a hot tub or barbecue pit, but almost anything else goes," says Ellen Ailsworth, a rehabilitation loan specialist for National City Bank, who has specialized in 203(k)s for 10 years and calls herself "the 203(k) lady."

That can include making the house bigger, if it still falls within the neighborhood norm. For example, if you buy a two-bedroom house in a neighborhood where most homes have three bedrooms, you can use a 203(k) to add the third bedroom.

Castano and Vincen are expanding their second story so the tiny attic room will become a master suite. At Flagstar, Confer has handled about 450 such loans in the past five years.

He says about half the borrowers he sees actually create quick equity by buying and repairing the house for less than its market value. The other half come out about even, he says; the cost of buying and fixing the house roughly equals its market value.

Confer's clients, Larry and Allison King, believe they're in the group that made money. In September they bought a two-story brick home on Detroit's west side for their family, which includes daughters Neisha, 21, and Brittany, 10, and 1-year-old granddaughter Tiaya.

It was an appealing home, says Larry King, with a formal dining room. He saw the house before it reached the market. "I called my wife and told her to leave work right now, because we were going to get this house."

The price was good, but the interior needed painting and the garage needed new roofs.

Then there was the furnace. "I

QUICK GUIDE TO 203(K) MORT

■ When a buyer gets a 203(k) mortgage, the money goes to the seller. First, the seller is paid off. Then as repairs begin, the rest of the loan is released in draws, like a typical construction loan.

■ After each repair is done, the work is inspected and the money for it is released. This used to be a terrible bottleneck, but now using the 203(k) say they get the check in 7-10 days.

■ It's a version of HUD's popular FHA mortgage, which covers small credit infractions than a standard mortgage does and has a slightly higher ratio of debt to income. The down payment is 3.5 percent.

■ The loan is written so that the buyer can get up to 110 percent of the house after repairs if they need it. This covers the more expensive than estimated. It also can be used to make payment while the work is being done. So if the house is sold during repairs, there's not the double burden of rent and a home sale.

■ The interest rate on a 203(k) loan is about 1 percentage point higher than on a conventional FHA loan. Right now, a standard FHA loan is 8 1/2 percent and a 203(k) loan 9 1/2 percent. "Most people use a 203(k) as an avenue to get the property they want," says Clifford Confer, Flagstar Bank's 203(k) specialist. Later, when the real estate market has settled, they can refinance to a standard FHA mortgage at the same lender.

■ Professional rehabbers cannot use 203(k) loans. However, groups, like the church and neighborhood groups that rehab low-income people, can.

walked down and saw the old octopus furnace — the old coal burner that had been converted to forced air," he says. "I didn't want to go into any winter not knowing how long that furnace would last."

The Kings bought their house for \$80,000. Through their 203(k) mortgage, they're putting about \$16,000 more into it, he says, with most of the work done by contractors. That should put them well ahead financially, because houses in their neighborhood appraise for around \$120,000.

Castano and Vincen will probably make money too, but that's because of their own sweat equity. They hired professional contractors to frame the expansion of their second story, to shore up their sagging basement and to run 100 amps of electricity into the house. But Vincen has done most of the other work himself.

That includes installing a new furnace, air conditioner and duct work, new copper plumbing, new wiring and a great deal of carpentry and finishing work.

So they'll probably finish their project for less than their 203(k) loan allowed, spending less than the house will be worth when it's done.

Buyers considering a 203(k) mortgage need to do extra research. "I think it's really important that people do their up-front homework," says Confer. "They need three basic pieces of information—the price to buy the house, the amount to repair it and the value of the house when it's done. I call that the feasibility analysis."

A real estate agent can help estimate the future value, he says, or the buyers can do their own research, pricing houses in the neighborhood. A contractor can help estimate the cost of repairs.

Once the buyer applies for a 203(k) mortgage, these same three estimates will be made officially, but the buyer will have to pay experts sent by FHA \$700-\$1,000 to do it. So the buyer should avoid starting the official loan process if there's a good chance the cost of buying and fixing the house will be far more than it's

worth. That house was a 203(k).

Like most mortgages, everything goes right, time can be quick.

"I got one closed in 10 days," says Ailsworth. "It was for a single mom. But 30-45 days is typical."

Confer says the delays most often caused by the lender trouble deciding on improvements to ask for.

"People aren't sure if they want to do, so they report back to me," he says.

"Then they're choosing a tractor and getting bids, and sometimes they seem to keep shopping. Or the uncle they may want to sell to seems to slow things down than anything else."

It is very important to work with a lender who knows them. The loan is limited to what it was five years ago, it's still a complicated job, parts unfamiliar to the officer.

Confer says real estate sometimes get turned down because they're not a lender who's experienced.

It's best to go to one of the lenders and ask if it has a 203(k) specialist. If not, go to another.

Ailsworth not only trades on 203(k)s, she's a realtor. She's doing equity fast, she says. She's doing her own house work, she's doing it on her own. She's doing it on her own. She's doing it on her own.

"I just love 203(k)s," she says. "I love bread and butter," she says. "I love a conservation-minded."

"I would much rather have an older home that needs to be fixed up and made to look pretty — new carpet, new paint, new kitchen, a bathroom remodeling. Instead of down a bunch of trees and new houses, why not house stock we've got to fix it nice?"

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California's history — written in wood

John Sutter's need for wood led to the discovery of another precious commodity

By Donn Zea
CORRESPONDENT

Back to my childhood home in the recently brought back memories of the 1971 earthquake in California. As devastating as the epicenter was very close to Covina — our beautiful frame house was undamaged. I'm relieved, but I shouldn't have been surprised. Why not? Because

one end of the state to the California's history is written in wood. From ghost towns to still-existing hotels, many of these old structures still exist.

Some are well-known, some are not. Many are both, and they have one thing in common: They have stood the test of time and history. Let me explain what I mean: The discovery of gold in California led to the greatest mass adventure since the Crusades. Ironically, the first gold strike to the products industry.

When John A. Sutter needed a mill to provide lumber for his growing empire in the Central Valley, he sent James Marshall to seek out a spot on the south fork of the American River.

After some searching, Marshall found a site with tall stands of pine and plenty of water to drive a mill.

During a routine inspection of the new sawmill early in the morning of Jan. 24, 1848, Marshall also found gold. Sutter's mill changed history. The years were not kind to California's most historic spot. In the 1850s, a massive flood roared down the American River and destroyed the sawmill away.

Some 70 years later, an excavation discovered the original iron-hard remains of the foundation. It says nothing about wood's durability. There was anything left at all. The timbers were dug up in 1948, and they're on display at the Mill Discovery State Park in Colusa.

Sutter's mill led to the California gold rush, one result of that gold was the town of Bodie on the east side, a treasured state park and historic landmark.

One of the toughest and lawless mining camps in the state, it hit its rip-roaring peak in 1879, when it was home to some 10,000 people. Deaths from murder and natural causes were an everyday occurrence, and a famous line is attributed to a young girl who wrote the epitaph, "Goodbye God, I'm going to Bodie."

The miners were tough but they weren't stupid. Temperatures of minus 20 degrees weren't unusual at the 8,000-foot elevation and the miners needed shelter.

Wood was scarce near Bodie and had to be brought in by wagons. Eventually, a railroad was built from Mono Lake so that the wood could be brought by rail to the southern end of the lake, taken by steamboat across the lake, then by rail to Bodie.

The gold petered out, but not until the digging yielded almost \$100 million in ore. Today Bodie is a ghost town and only the weathered wooden buildings remain, defying time, weather and history. Walk among the wooden walls around dusk and you'd swear that you can hear the shouts of the miners echoing down the years.

There's a happier site on the western slope of the Sierra, the spectacular covered Bridge at Nyes Crossing on the south fork of the Yuba River.

Built in 1862 by David Isaac Wood with lumber from his mill in Sierra County, at 251 feet it is the longest, single-span, wooden covered bridge in the country and one of only 10 covered bridges in California. This bridge was built to last.

The arch of this cherished span consists of two massive 5 by 14 inch Douglas fir timbers bolted together and squeezed between the members of the truss and resting on massive granite blocks.

The remarkable bridge endured the weight of a 13-ton tractor without excessive strain 138 years after it was built. The sugar pine shake roofing and sides not only protect the timber from the weather, but add an air of timeless beauty and antiquity that attracts thousands of visitors every year.

Now head south to the other end of the state to a bona fide legend, the world-famous Hotel del Coronado, one of the largest and most spectacular wooden structures ever built and a National Historic Landmark.

The story of "The Del," as it is known, began in 1886 when two hunting buddies, Elisha Babcock and H. L. Story, paid \$110,000 for 4,100 acres to build a hotel on Coronado Island near San Diego that would be "the talk of the western world."

In San Francisco, they contracted for exclusive rights to all lumber cut by the Dolbeer and Carson Lumber Company, one of the Pacific Coast's largest lumber firms. Contracting was one thing. Getting it more than 400 miles south was another.

Logs were bound by chains and floated down the coast while a full-size lumber mill was built on the hotel site.

Beautiful pest-resistant California redwood was used for the framing, doors and trim. The lobby features white oak, and the enormous Crown Room ceiling was done in sugar pine, held in place without a single nail. Douglas fir, hemlock and cedar were also used throughout the majestic hotel.



THE HISTORIC HOTEL DEL CORONADO'S CROWN ROOM. The enormous Crown Room ceiling was done in sugar pine, and held in place without a single nail. Douglas fir, hemlock and cedar were also used throughout the majestic hotel.

Today, after a \$70 million restoration, walking beneath the wooden turrets, white gingerbread trim, cupolas and ruby-shingled roof of The Del is like stepping back into a 19th-century fairy tale.

Of course, life today is more complicated than it was back then, although the story remains the same in some very good ways. A recent study found that today's wooden structures will be around for a long time, too.

A study by the engineering department at the University of California, San Diego, found that the more flexible wood-frame structures come through earthquakes in much better shape than concrete or steel. Simulating the force of the 1994 Northridge earthquake, researchers found that a wood-frame house built

for the test was undamaged, just like my family home in Covina.

If history is the path that leads us to the future, the forest products industry is better equipped than ever to face that future.

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Donn Zea is president of the California Forest Products Commission.

Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B14

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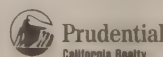
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My garden's delightful winter wonderland

Number 352 in a series of true experiences in real estate

I was out in the garden today but didn't stay long. It's still too cold. And it's wet. I like sitting on the ground looking at plants close up, taking out the weeds and clearing away fallen leaves. Can't do that comfortably now, and that's too bad because this is my favorite time of year in the garden.

I like how the garden looks in winter, full of promise, some parts bare, and the earth in view. It's prettier to me even than when everything is big and in bloom.

I especially like seeing the tips of bulbs breaking through the ground. It's so exciting to me — that the bulbs know to do it, that they don't stop until they're all grown up.

Old-fashioned daffodils, for instance, are lovely to see, all perky and that beautiful yellow that they are. Still, I actually prefer their green tops just as they are emerging from below.

Now is the best time to weed. The ground is soft and moist so weeds just come right out. No tool is needed for prying. Plus, there is a satisfaction in knowing that I got 'em young, before they spread, before they seed themselves all over the place.

What constitutes a weed is open to individual opinion, of course. What I pull out of my garden might be something you protect in yours. Take forget-me-nots. I love their name and their blue flowers.

I love their leaves, the shape of them, their color and their fuzziness. But a couple of years ago I designated them as weeds. I pull out every one I see, which is many, amazingly many.

I am trying to rid my garden of forget-me-nots because I grew tired of the sticky seeds attaching themselves to my clothes and to the cats' fur. In past years, as I pulled out the spent forget-me-nots, thousands, possibly millions, of the gray seeds (about the size of a peppercorn) covered my sleeves, shirt and pant legs.

They do not come off in the wash. They must be individually

True Experiences



By Tarpoff and Talbert

tugged off, a tiresome chore. It's even worse to disentangle and detach them from cat fur, and the cats hate it when I try.

I have another weed (the name of which I have never known), legions of same, an attractive little plant that sends up adorable, minuscule white flowers.

I often notice these plants when they are quite small, half an inch high with six or seven rounded leaves in a circular cluster no larger than a dime.

That's when to get them because, if left (which they often are, there are so many of them), they grow like gangbusters. They rapidly reach heights of 5 to 6 inches before breaking into bloom.

Then it's too late because these guys are seed shooters. They shoot everywhere; they shoot far! Every single one of their seeds sprouts. I'm sure.

At least that weed doesn't also reproduce underground as oxalis does. You know oxalis: neon yellow springtime flowers, filled fields of them in vacant lots, amongst evergreens (little hope of getting rid of them in that case), anywhere they've landed.

I hate them, dislike their too-green-yellow color and especially, their tenacity. They spread from seeds and also from their bulbs which multiply faster than rabbits. Frustrated gardeners regularly write to garden columnists asking what to do to eliminate oxalis. The

See TARPOFF, Page B6

Sewer-cleaning — a dirty little job that someone has to do

Near the town of Kusadasi, Turkey, lie the ruins of the ancient city of Ephesus. Its history dates back to 2000 B.C. Marble roads and solid granite columns abound. An elegant mosaic-covered sidewalk remains intact. The shop of a spice vendor can be viewed just as it was when it was open for business 20 centuries before Christ walked the earth.

Even the "user-friendly" portion of a public bathroom remains fully intact. Open trenches remain beneath solid stone benches (with strategically placed holes in them). Unlike folks today, Ephesians didn't have to worry about toilet paper clogging up their sewer system.

Now, 4,000 years later, when a sewer backs up, it still can cause problems. However, unlike the Ephesians, we have the "sewer auger," a snake-like tool made of ultramodern coiled spring steel that is designed to travel within a sewer pipe — in line and around corners — to dislodge obstructions.

Insert the snake

The snake is inserted into the sewer line in one of two ways:

Through an outlet adjacent to a fixture.

Through a removable cap known as a cleanout (a flat cap with a hex nut in the center).

Either method is acceptable depending on where a clog exists. Sometimes the cleanout is best and other times removing a fixture (such as the toilet), or the fittings next to a fixture (such as the sink trap), can be better. It all depends on which ac-



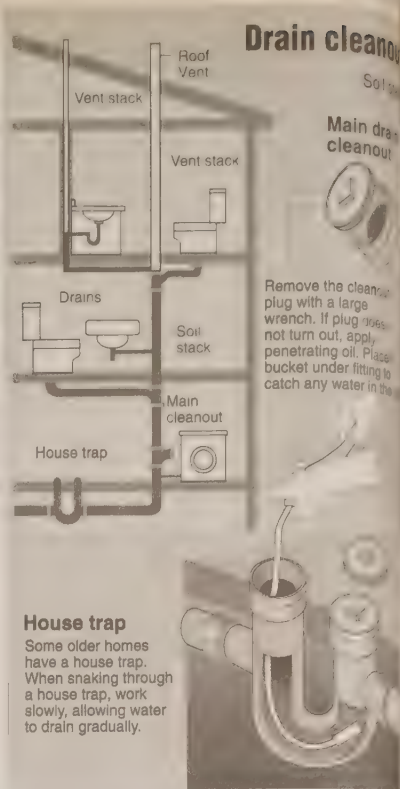
MORRIS & JAMES CAREY

On the House

cess point is closer to the clog and easier to access. Always start cleaning closest to the point of the backup. Generally speaking if only one fixture is clogged it means that only the line near that fixture is blocked. Cleaning downline or at the main line when a "branch" (or secondary) line is clogged could prove to be an effort in futility — beginning to clean beyond the obstruction just doesn't work. Regardless of how you attempt to access a sewer line, there are some common-sense rules that should be followed to make your cleaning attempt a successful one.

Backed-up sewage can exist beyond (uphill from) the point you intend to access for cleaning. Before opening a cleanout, be sure to prepare for a flood of sewage. You'll need towels, buckets and maybe even some plastic sheeting. As for your own safety, be careful not to be in harm's way when the cleanout cap is removed. Be uphill and to one side.

See SEWER, Page B6



House trap

Some older homes have a house trap. When snaking through a house trap, work slowly, allowing water to drain gradually.

Open Sunday 2-4:30

New Listing!

6375 Swainland Road, Montclair
This elegant and comfortable four bedroom one half bath home is located on a quarter lot with Bay and bridge views. The perfect entertaining with pool, level garden and deck. Offered at \$1,195,000
John Karnay
Office: 339.0400/230
GRUBBCO.COM

Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed

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966 SAN PABLO AVE, ALBANY

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Albany - \$325,000
819 Curtis Street

Excellent location!! 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, cosmetic fixer. Fireplace in living room, utility room off kitchen, large detached garage.



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Broker-Owner
(510) 524-8508
Diane S.Deutsche@aol.com

OPEN SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 4 • 1-4
1460 West View Drive, Oakland



Just listed! Rare offering! Located in the sought after Oakland Hills above the Claremont Hotel in a neighborhood of million dollar homes, this three bedroom, two and a half bath Mediterranean style stucco home offers updating potential, plus huge, finished lower level space. Two adjacent down slope San Francisco view lots offered separately for sale. Inquire for details.

1460 West View Drive \$850,000
11,200+/- Lot \$400,000
6,100+/- Lot \$350,000

Patricia Scott
Senior Sales Consultant
Bus. (510) 339-6460 ext. 315

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Open Sunday 2-4:30



4144 Greenwood Avenue, Glenview
Charming Mediterranean with spacious formal rooms, high ceilings, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, two bedrooms, one and one half baths, two bonus rooms and elegant garden. Offered at \$495,000



James Garcia
Office: 339.0400/228
GRUBBCO.COM

Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed

The GRUBB Co.

NEW LISTING!
Open Sunday • February 4 • 2-4:30 pm



10 Overlake Ct., Oakland

Located in the heart of Montclair, this wonderfully unique and pristine home is situated on its lot for ultimate privacy. Two separate level enclosed patios and a separate spa site create an ambiance of serenity and seclusion.

Features:
2 Bedrooms/1.5 baths
Living room with fireplace
Dining area
Family room
Offered at \$419,000



Teamwork is the difference
Sandi Klemmer & Dick Cohen
Senior Sales Consultants
(510) 339-6460 ext. 314 or 308

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OPEN SUNDAY • February 4 • 2-4:30



Diamonds and Pearls!
11718 Cranford Way, Oakland

Life doesn't get much better than this! Spacious, sunny 3+ bedroom bath contemporary surrounded by panoramic Bay views and open space. Master suite, rumpus room, two fireplaces, 2-car attached with workbench. Numerous tasteful upgrades.

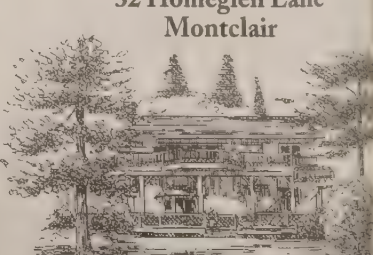
Offered at \$539,000



Ann Nichols
Senior Sales Associate
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PACIFIC UNION

OPEN SUNDAY • FEB 4 • 1-4:00 pm
32 Homeglen Lane
Montclair



Peaceful tree setting • Three bedroom/two bath
Flexible floor plan • Ideal au pair studio or home office
Offered at \$439,000



Teri Carlisle
Senior Sales Associate
Bus. (510) 339-6460 x 305
email: tericarlisle@pacificunion.com
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Open Sunday 2:00 - 4:30



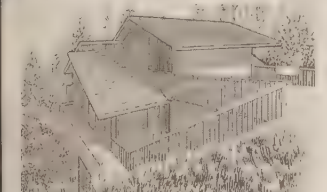
DRAMATIC WITH VIEWS.....\$769,000
Four bedrooms, three baths, spacious rooms with high ceilings, incredible master suite, two decks, level front garden, storage.
9945 Skyline Blvd.

Caroline Peters 510-869-5106



JUST LISTED! NEED MORE SPACE?.....\$549,000
Spacious four bedroom with large family room, hardwood floors and formal dining. Woodsy setting in Upper Oakmore district.
2506 Lemert Blvd.

Patricia Bennett 510-482-9000



FIRST TIME OPEN.....\$459,000
Striking contemporary on quiet street with view. Space & lots of upgrades. Two bedrooms, two baths plus a 40'x16' bonus room.
3109 Burdeck Drive

Arnold Mueller 510-287-9577



MEDITERRANEAN MASTERPIECE.....\$425,000

Too good to be true - yet seeing is believing the rich architectural details plus fabulous gourmet kitchen, stunning living room, lovely level garden, three bedrooms, two car garage, basement.
940 Hollywood Ave.

Mary Jane McConville 510-287-9583



GORGEOUS MILLION DOLLAR VIEWS.....\$399,000

One of the most beautiful condos in Oakland. Two bedrooms, two baths, close to shopping area and major freeways.
351 Wayne Ave.

A.D. Nassiri 510-869-5595



CHARMING BUNGALOW.....\$399,000

Spacious three plus bedroom, one and a half bath home in Glenview. Original wood details, hardwood floors, formal dining room.
3858 Brighton Avenue

Martha Shin 510-287-9806

RARE 4 BEDROOM IN SAN LEANDRO'S BROADMOOR.....\$399,000
New on the market. Charming home has four bedrooms plus a family room, formal dining, huge master suite, two full baths, hardwood floors, and large bright rooms.
875 Victoria Ave., San Leandro
Jim Schubert 510-436-6683

COZY DUPLEX.....\$320,000
Two units with two bedrooms, one bath each. Lovely front and back garden. Two car garage, wood floors, laundry room, quiet street, convenient Ivy Park location. Charming!
728 E. 22nd Street

Teresa Chan 510-807-2240

DEER RIDGE BEAUTY!.....\$635,000
Gorgeous view of oak studded foothills, large kitchen with center island, two brick fireplaces, private yard with patio and spa.
Danville Better Homes Realty 925-837-2200

SINGLE LEVEL SYCAMORE HOME.....\$499,000
Great hill views on cul-de-sac, just painted inside and out makes for the perfect turn key home with new hardwood and marble floors; heater, air conditioning, and drive way.
Danville Better Homes Realty 925-837-2200

ARCHITECTURAL BEAUTY.....\$579,900
Cathedral ceiling - light, tile floors in baths and kitchen, marble entry, eat-in Euro-kitchen, neutral carpet, formal dining room, family room, three fireplaces, rare three-car garage, newer patio and landscaping, upgraded window coverings, gated community, great location - convenient to freeway and shopping.
Danville Better Homes Realty 925-837-2200

ECHO RIDGE BEAUTY!.....\$545,000
Gorgeous Mediterranean style three bedroom, two and a half bath, newly painted inside with new neutral carpet. Two courtyards adorned with brick and flagstone with arbors. Newly refinished hardwood floors. Gated tropical palm setting.
Danville Better Homes Realty 925-837-2200



COMING SOON IN MAXWELL PARK!.....\$298,000
Located on one of the nicest streets in Maxwell park, this charming three plus bedroom bungalow features stone fireplace, formal dining, extra rooms to use for den and workshop.
Rosie Nysaether 510-287-9557

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CLAREMONT HILLS \$850,000
1460 WEST VIEW DR. (Open 1-4:00)
Located in the sought after Oakland Hills this 3BD/2.5BA Mediterranean style stucco home offers updating potential. Plus a huge, finished lower level space. Two adjacent lots with SF views also available as separate sales. Patricia Scott x315



MONTCLAIR \$649,000
1823 DRAKE DR. (Open 1-4:00) Spacious 1960's contemporary conveniently located close to village. Enjoy 3000+/- sq. ft. with expansive Bay views and level yard. 5BD/3BA. Living room with vaulted ceilings & fireplace. Family room with fireplace and office built-ins. Jeffrey Himmel x307



MONTCLAIR \$599,000
5969 BRUNS COURT (Open 2-4:30)
Pristine 3BR/2BA contemporary with flexible floor plan. Spacious living room & dining room. Hardwood floors. Wooded hill view. Private patio and garden. Helen Donahaki x356 & Charlotte Boyle x370



OAKLAND \$539,000
11718 CRANFORD WY. (Open 2-4:30)
Spacious, sunny 3+BD/2.5BA contemporary surrounded by panoramic Bay views and open green space. Master suite, rumpus room, two fireplaces, 2-car attached garage with workbench. Numerous upgrades. Ann Nichols x319

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MONTCLAIR \$535,000
1767 WOODHAVEN WAY (Open 2-4:30)
Gracious 3BD/2BA traditional home with wonderful architectural details. Balconies off the master suite. French doors in the living room lead out to a private and serene back yard. Kathy Flynn x317



ROCKRIDGE \$449,000
5528 KALES AVE. (Open 2-4:30) Quiet and charming in prime Rockridge location. Easy access to BART and College Avenue shopping. Two bedrooms, one bath. Sweet, level back yard. Detached garage. Joan E. Hause x358



MONTCLAIR \$439,000
32 HOMEGLEN RD. (Open 1-4:00) Peaceful tree setting. Three bedroom, two baths. Flexible floor plan. Ideal au pair, studio, or home office. Wonderful outdoor spaces. Teri Carlisle x305

Open Sunday



MONTCLAIR \$419,000
10 OVERLAKE CT. (Open 2-4:30)
Located in the heart of Montclair, this wonderfully unique 2BD/1.5BA home is situated on its lot for ultimate privacy. Living room with fireplace, dining area and family room. Two separate level enclosed patios, spa site create an ambiance of serenity and seclusion. Sandi Klemmer x314 & Dick Cohen x308

OAKLAND HILLS \$369,000
77 IRONWOOD (Open 2-4:30)
New Listing! Sequoyah Heights Townhouse. 3BD/2.5BA. Bay views. SF/Golden Gate/Bay Bridge view from master suite. Upgraded kitchen. 2-car attached garage. Robyn Mohr x310

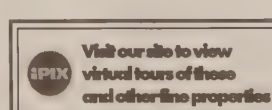


SAN LEANDRO \$364,500
703 JOAQUIN AVE. (Open 1-4:00) As you approach the front door of this craftsman bungalow, you are greeted with a white picket fence, a wonderful garden of fruit trees and a big front porch. 2+ BD/1.25BA. formal dining room, plus room/family room/office, & breakfast nook. Donna Costella x355

Open Sunday



GLENVIEW \$359,000
1262 EXCELSIOR AVE. (Open 2-4:30)
Bungalow with flowing floor plan, built in 1920. Two bedrooms, tiled slate bath, updated eat-in kitchen with access to deck and landscaped yard. Formal dining room w/built-ins, hardwood floors and sunporch entry way. Lee Jacobson x309



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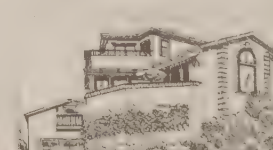


PIEDMONT \$2,999,000
This gorgeous French Mediterranean estate features Bay views from San Jose to the Golden Gate Bridge. With its six bedrooms and four full and one half-baths, it provides classic Piedmont living and a maximum of modern convenience. Debi Fitzgerald x306

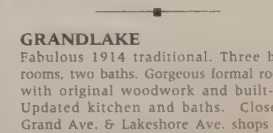
Coming Soon



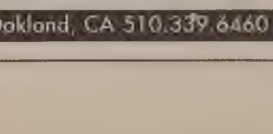
OAKLAND HILLS \$759,000
Architectural Distinction - sophisticated, elegant design with large expanses of glass, open interior spaces, and warm wood built-ins, trim and paneling. 4+BD/3.5BA. Private setting over an acre of land in the Oakland hills. Georgia Cornell x325



BERKELEY HILLS
Leonard Perillo presents this exciting new Mediterranean situated in the beautiful Berkeley Hills. Bay and canyon views. Five bedroom, four baths. Formal dining room, kitchen/family room, master suite and multi-level decks. A truly gracious experience of country/city living awaits you! Dee & Joe Knowland x318



UPPER ROCKRIDGE
Enjoy commanding views of San Francisco and the Bay from this gorgeous three bedroom, three bath home. Features elegant living room, large family room opening to garden, gracious dining room, office with terrace, and large bonus room over garage. Relax in the comfort of this secluded setting on a quiet-cul-de-sac. Teri Carlisle x305



GRANDLAKE
Fabulous 1914 traditional. Three bedrooms, two baths. Gorgeous formal rooms with original woodwork and built-ins. Updated kitchen and baths. Close to Grand Ave. & Lakeshore Ave. shops and restaurants. Jeffrey Himmel x307

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Tarpoft

FROM PAGE B4

answer is always the same: "Pull them early, pull every one, keep doing this every year forever." Chemicals, the garden experts say, may help, but maybe not.

Note, by the way, that the yellow scourge oxalis is only one oxalis. There are others. I have a wonderful pink one in my garden, already here when I arrived, which mounds high, has clover-shaped leaves and rosy pink flowers in

The best part is that, unlike a house that stays looking pretty much the same, a garden is always changing. The garden always offers something fresh and marvelous to delight my eyes.

clusters. This is a marvelous plant that does not spread beyond its appointed spot, plus it is in bloom most of the year giving me much pleasure.

What I should be doing on this cold day is donning my Christmas gift gauntlet gloves and pruning the roses. They need cutting back, will do much better if only I'll get to the task. And now that I have the long leather gloves to protect my "old lady skin" from bruising, the job should be tolerable.

But it's a big job, and I'm not in the mood. Instead I take a quick walk on the garden paths pausing to pull out wild onion (another campaign), leaving aside my pulling to be dealt with later. Although I've done my seasonal clean-up at least three times already, there are still many leaves in and around growing plants. Raking won't remove them; I'll need to pluck them by hand.

On another day, I will enjoy picking them, one by one, pinching off trailers and dry hydrangea skeletons, separating intertwining neighbors. This is what I do in my garden: I clean house.

In earlier years, I engaged in different garden activities: I planned what I would grow, read about plants, went to the nursery, drew plans, I dug and added amendments, removed rocks, placed stepping stones.

Except for an occasional foray to the nursery and a glance through a garden catalog, I don't do any of these things anymore. Now I maintain. It's much like housekeeping. No remodeling, changes of color, or new furniture. Instead, I vacuum, dust and continually pick up the place.

The best part is that, unlike a house that stays looking pretty much the same, a garden is always changing. The garden always offers something fresh and marvelous to delight my eyes.

Anet Tarpoft and Pat Talbert are licensed real estate agents who specialize in single family houses. They also offer hourly real estate consulting and coaching. They can be reached by e-mail at patanet@ml.net or by phone at 510-653-2050.

Rates rise anticipating Federal Reserve move

McLean, VA - In Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey, the bellwether 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 7.15 percent, with an average cost of 0.8 point (1 point equals 1 percent of the loan amount), for the week ending Jan. 26.

This average rose from last week's 7.02 percent. This time a year ago, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 8.25 percent.

The 15-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 6.70 percent this week, with an average cost of 0.8 point. This popular refinance tool rose 7 points from last week's average of 6.63 percent. A year ago, the 15-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 7.84 percent.

The rate for one-year Treasury-indexed adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 6.64 percent this week, with an average cost of 0.9

point. This rate remained unchanged from last week's average of 6.64 percent.

This time last year, the 1-year ARM averaged 6.65 percent. "Recent economic signals gave pause to the idea that the economy was collapsing at a rapid pace," said Robert Van Order, chief economist for Freddie Mac.

"Thus, financial markets began planning for a smaller than previously anticipated rate cut by the Federal Reserve. This put upward pressure on interest rates back into the picture.

"What direction mortgage rates will take in the near future depends both on what Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan says to Congress today, and what actions the Federal Open Market Committee takes at its upcoming meeting next week."

Sewer

FROM PAGE B4

If you can't be uphill, be on the other side of a trench or moat (dig one if you need to) that will help keep you dry should there be a sufficient amount of sewage to flood your surroundings. And, you might want to wear a breathing mask. If the clog is on a second story, chances are good that a massive flood will occur if an attempt is made to access a lower level cleanout. Always try to dislodge a clog on an upper floor from that level. After the clog has been dislodged, you can travel to a lower level to attempt a more complete removal of the debris causing it.

The auger story

The teeth at the tip of the auger can tell you a story about what's causing the problem. For example: Small shreds of roots can indicate that a tree root has found its way into

your waste system. No matter what you do to eliminate this problem, you are destined for a replacement of the affected pipe. It's either that or having to deal with constant clogs — and backups. Once a tree roots itself in your sewer, it's over.

It's bad news when the tip comes back covered with mud. This means your pipe probably has been crushed and there is a 95 percent chance that it will need replacement.

If a small auger doesn't do the job, a large power auger can be rented. However, take heed. A power auger in the hands of a novice can end up becoming a pipe-shredder. Be sure that you are relatively competent before undertaking this task.

Pittsburg contractors Morris and James O. Carey can be heard Saturday mornings on KSFO 560 AM. Write the Carey Brothers, c/o the Associated Press, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020-1666, or e-mail them at careybro@onthehouse.com. Their Web site is at www.onthehouse.com.

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Some of the brightest and sharpest people in the Bay Area reside in Kensington. Located close to Tilden Park golf, swimming and hiking. You will be charmed with this 3 plus bedroom home. Enjoy your gracious and spacious living room with fireplace and formal dining room, all overlooking beautiful gardens. Offered at \$519,000.

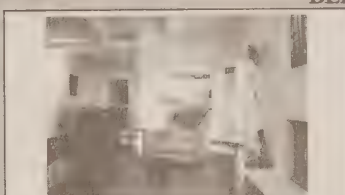
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25 EVERGREEN LANE • Open Sunday 2-4:30
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Bebe McRae, ext. 145 \$739,000



2356 CORONA CT. • Open Sun 2-4:30
Located on a quiet cul-de-sac with beautiful view of the Bay & a large terraced yard sits a handsome Normandy style home built in 1920 by renowned architect John Hudson Thomas
Ron Eggherman, ext. 127 \$775,000



15 MAYBECK TWIN DRIVE
A spectacular view contemporary 3 bedrooms, den, 2 BA, private pool, impeccably restored!
Bebe McRae, ext. 145 \$950,000



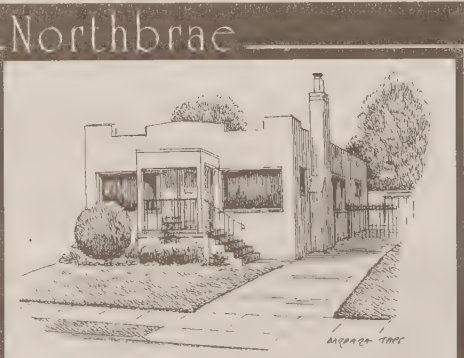
ELMWOOD BROWN SHINGLE
Updated big kitchen. 4 BR, 2 BA, sunroom, decks & garden, garage.
Paul Templeton, ext. 131.....



COMING ATTRACTION!
1051 Cragmont North Berkeley. Showings begin Feb. 5. Wonderful craftsman with Bay views! 3 BR, 1.5 BA, updated kitchen & large lot!
Bebe McRae, ext. 145 \$675,000



36 TAMAIPAIS ROAD • Open Sunday
NEW LISTING! rare craftsman beauty! Open lot. Flexible floorplan. 3+++BR, 3 BA, 2 car garage.
Susie Schevill, ext. 144 \$690,000



Charming Home, Friendly Neighborhood

This charming Berkeley home is located close to parks, schools and transportation. The cozy living room includes a fireplace that's perfect for cold winter evenings and adjoins a formal dining room. Hardwood floors provide a natural, warm glow. The large, updated kitchen includes a breakfast bar perfect for quick morning meals, and when the weather warms the sunny backyard will prove perfect for gardening and play. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Offered at \$285,000.

Anita Thede • Claude Delanbert • Maryann Benblein
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Sunny Garden Delight



1050 Keith Ave, Berkeley

Level in 3 bedroom, 2 bath house in wonderful Berkeley Hills neighborhood. This home features a huge yard with fruit trees, flowers and sunny open space. Perfect for the gardener, or those who love to "putter". The house has great potential and a flexible setup. Upstairs: 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, large living/dining room with fireplace, wood floors, eat-in kitchen. Downstairs: 1 bedroom, 1 bath, family room with fireplace, sunny deck, separate entrance. Separate storage building

Offered at \$399,000 "As Is"

First Open House: Sunday, February 4th 2-4pm

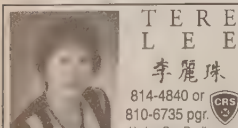
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Please read to your children



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1600 Fernside Blvd.
Craftman, Many built-ins - Remodeled! PENDING BDRM plus sunroom. 1.5 Baths \$469,000

NEW LISTING AT THE WILLOWS

2101 Shoreline Dr. #274
2 BDRM/1.5 Baths \$269,000

SAN LEANDRO

NEW LISTING:
14390 OUTRIGGER DR.
2 1/2 Ground. SOLD. \$280,000

2500 GALLEON PL. 2/2
Ground floor. SOLD. \$260,000

14016 OUTRIGGER DR. 2 BD
2 1/2 BA. SOLD. Townhouse-Style \$280,000

14418 OUTRIGGER DR. 3BD,
2 1/2 BA, 2 1-car garages,
move in condition. \$325,000
OPEN SUN. 2-4.

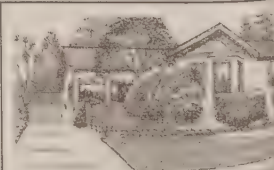


1812 TACOMA • Open Sunday 1-4
A Thousand Oaks charmer! Lovely 3 BR, 1 BA home boasts rich craftsman detailing. Needs "TLC". Located on wonderful tree lined street. Walking distance to Solano Ave, Thousand Oaks School/Park & public transportation.
Anne Van Dyke, ext. 137 \$539,000 As Is

KENSINGTON



1605 OCEAN VIEW • Open Sunday 2-4
NEW LISTING! Fixer! Great opportunity! Walk to coffee & shops! 3 BR, 1 BA.
Susie Schevill, ext. 144 \$375,000 As Is



1023 DYER • Open Sunday 1:30-4
Sunfilled 4 BR, 2 BA Traditional, wonderful details, beautiful hardwood floors, private garage. Great cul-de-sac location. Walk to BART.
Leslie Avant, ext. 122 \$530,000

EL CERRITO

BEAUTIFUL VIEWS Perched on a hill with commanding views of the Bay Area. Spacious, contemporary home. 6BR, 4 BA room, library, in law. Don't miss.
Ron Eggherman, ext. 127 \$875,000

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

~ Piedmont - Open Sunday 2-4:30 p.m. ~

9 Craig Avenue New Listing \$1,975,000
Spacious family home in the center of town. Close to everything! Move right in to this light and glamorous home constructed circa 1915. With 5+ BR - everyone has their own!

Anian Pettit Tunney

67 Glen Alpine Road New Listing \$1,190,000
In a very unique and private setting in Piedmont you will find this 1+BR/1BA cottage situated on over an acre of gorgeous land with mature oaks.

Erika Celestre

90 Oakmont Ave. New Listing \$895,000
The elegant design of this lovely 4BR/3BA Tudor has been beautifully maintained. Features include leaded windows, beamed ceilings & hardwood floors.

Elizabeth Dickson

216 Wildwood Ave. New Listing \$689,000
Level-in & spacious set on an oversized lot close to schools & parks. 4BR/2BA on main w/possible au-pair on lower level. Charming brick patio & loads of parking.

Connie Rogers

~ Oakland & Berkeley - Open Sunday 2-4:30 p.m. ~

6365 Fairlane Drive \$1,539,000
Modernist masterpiece w/stunning panoramic SF views. Approx. 5600 sq. ft. of open spaces, lofty terraces & balconies. 3BR suites, 3-car garage & large studio.

Susanne Paul

6375 Swainland Road New Listing \$1,195,000
Three year old Montclair home on 1/4 acre lot with Bay and bridge views. 4+BR/3+BA, pool, level garden and decks for entertaining.

John Karnay

5670 Weaver Place New Listing \$1,050,000
Your own mini estate on 1.06 level acres w/4BR/3BA, den, separate office, chef's kitchen, lush gardens & koi pond. Updated throughout. One of a kind.

Kurt Buchholz

13050 Broadway Terr. New Listing \$895,000
This sophisticated 3BR European chalet offers both outstanding SF views plus level back garden. Quality built in 1996.

Linda McClain

5825 Lawton Avenue \$549,000
This stunning Craftsman, on a tree lined street close to Market Hall & BART has 3+BR/2BA, formal dining, breakfast & family rooms, loft and sunny garden.

Sheila Gallagher

200 Modoc Avenue New Price \$495,000
Charming Upper Rockridge traditional w/SF Bay views, lovely formal rooms, country eat-in kitchen & garden w/ fruit trees. 3BR/2BA.

Sherry Benninger

4144 Greenwood Ave. New Listing \$495,000
Charming Glenview Mediterranean w/high ceilings, hardwood floors, updated kitchen w/breakfast room. 2BR/1.5BA & 2 "plus" rooms. Garden.

Judith Cain

1067 Park Hills Rd New Listing \$495,000
BERKELEY. Experience peace & tranquility in this vertant setting near Tilden Park. Bathed in sunlight, this 3BR/2.5BA home boasts lush gardens & privacy.

Mavis Delacroix

710H Canyon Oaks New Listing \$175,000
This condo offers a desirable upstairs location in a quiet natural setting. Master bedroom, dining area, & living room w/fireplace.

Sherry Benninger

~ By Appointment ~

Crocker Highlands Shingle \$595,000
Charming shingle w/contemporary touches. Remodeled kitchen, 3BR/2BA, family room plus extra large rumpus room, deck & garden.

James Garcia

Montclair Serene Setting \$463,000
You will love the feel of this light and airy 4BR/2BA Montclair contemporary home with wooded canyon views. Close to Regional Parks.

Connie Rogers

Piedmont - Very Private \$799,000
Enjoy the convenience and amenities of this level home on a quiet cul-de-sac. New gourmet kitchen & remodeled master bath. Spacious downstairs.

Anian Pettit Tunney

Piedmont Colonial \$575,000
Situated on a quiet street is this charming Dutch colonial w/ spacious formal rooms & hardwood floors throughout. Close to schools, shopping and transportation.

Angela Wei Grubb

Sign-up for The GRUBB Co. Registry at GRUBBCO.COM for up to the minute information on current listings in Oakland, Piedmont, Berkeley, Albany, Moraga and Orinda

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Donnaluci Williams

Steel framed home built by Schuler

Almost new 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bath, den, light, bright. Tons of upgrades. Fabulous master suite. You won't believe the price!

8,500 sq. ft. near Bishop O'Dowd School
Vacant upslope lot in Oakland. Tax records say Lot zoned for multiple units. Fabulous view of city and bridges. \$89,000.

Spanish Bungalow on Supersized Lot

This home is nearly 1,200 sq. ft. Immaculate Inside and out. Super wide, super deep lot. Drive through to backyard. New appliances, possible Trade in 1031 exchange \$189,000.

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E-mail: HarborBay@hbrhomes.com
• www.hbrhomes.com

Oakland

\$25,000 Hillmont Drive. Secluded view lot located between 7544 & 7552 Hillmont. Margaret Lombia (510) 814-482

\$99,000 0 Burr St. Zoned multi-farm lot. Super View! Established neighborhood with homes on both sides. Large lot approx. 8,500 sq. ft. on upslope. Near Bishop O'Dowd High School. Donnalud Williams (510) 814-4826.

\$139,000 1026 Pine St. Open Sat. & Sun. 12-4. Charming Victorian Cottage in West Oakland! Needs lots of work but much is original. Main floor has 2 bedrooms. Upstairs has 3 additional rooms. One and a half baths. Large basement. Excellent opportunity for 1st time buyer who loves Victorians. Kathy Hirsch (510) 814-4706

\$139,000 1428 3rd St., Oakland Duplex. Open Sat & Sun 12-4. Two-2 bedroom units. Needs lots of work, great South Prescott location! As-is sale. Kathy Hirsch (510) 814-4706

\$179,000 1366 E 34th St. Victorian lifestyle living! This Victorian cottage has a large room w/ bath & open floor plan. Basement to be finished. Located w/ great landscaping. Great location on Oakland/Emeryville border. Kathy Hirsch (510) 814-4706

\$189,000 2820 22nd Ave. Single level 2 bedroom, 1 bath Spanish bungalow/ King family room combination/diner/den. Hardwood floors and fresh paint. Large yard with lots of street corner. Possible expansion. Donnalud Williams (510) 814-4826.

\$349,500 2501 23rd Ave. Three units total! Four Bedroom garage, 2 full bathroom units in rear. Great location! Units leased at \$625.00 month house period for owner/rentor! The striped lot! Kathy Hirsch (510) 814-4706

\$350,000 3154 Arizona St. Charming Spanish Mediterranean nestled in a lovely Upper Laurel hills neighborhood! Two Bedrooms, 1 bath, formal dining room, fireplace, hardwood floors, and a basement that could be a bonus room. Built in 1926, needs a little TLC. Great for 1st time buyers. George Muhr (510) 814-4691

\$401,000 4010 Malcolm Ave. Spacious Mediterranean with a large Bay View! Three bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, kitchen, living room, family room and bonus room! Lore Dixon (510) 814-4875

PENDING

PENDING

PENDING

Hayward

\$299,000 22932 Valley View Dr., Hayward. Very clean in nice forest! Single level 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with formal dining room, fireplace, and large back yard with finished garage. Martha Turner (510) 814-4828

PENDING

PENDING

PENDING

San Leandro

\$280,000 14016 Outrigger Dr., Great location near swimming pool! Fireplace, dining area and kitchen included. Two garage spaces. Swimming pool, spa, and tennis courts. Tere Lee (510) 814-4840

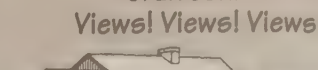
PENDING

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San Leandro

\$325,000 14418 Outrigger Dr. 1ST OPEN Sun 2-4. Three bedroom 2.5 bath Segale home with two 1-car garages. Community pool, spa, and tennis court. Close to marina and golf course. Tere Lee (510) 814-4840



OPEN SUN. 1-4
Views! Views! Views!

Bird's eye views up in Chabot Highlands. Close to Klamath Park open space, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, large family room with fireplace, huge formal dining room, 2310 sq.ft., 2 car garage, hardwood floors, great neighborhood, 40 acre corner lot. Offered at \$599,000. Bring all offers!

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 California Realty

Call Kathleen for private showing.
510-620-7575 or 510-758-5565

COMING SOON!



Charming Bungalow

A must see! Cute Glenview charmer, 3+ Bedrooms, Baths, nice quiet street. Living Room with Fireplace, Hardwood floors, Formal Dining Room, attached garage.

asking price: \$399,000



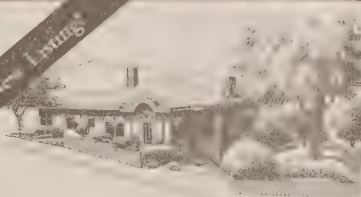
Martha Shin

Montclair Better Homes
1986 Mountain Blvd.
510-339-8400
510-287-9806



Open Sunday 2 - 4:30


Sebring



216 Wildwood Avenue, Piedmont

This level-in, spacious, Piedmont home on a gracious oversized lot conveniently located near schools, playground and parks. Four bedrooms, two baths on the main level. Lower level could be possible au-pair room with split shower and half bath and large multi-purpose room. Close to brick patio and mature gardens in front and rear with loads of parking.

Offered at \$689,000



Connie Rogers
Office: 339.0400/204
Home: 510.658.9708
GRUBBCO.COM

The GRUBB

Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4:00

New Listing in Crocker! 685 Arimo, Oakland

Rich wood trim, built-ins, wainscoting, and inlaid hardwood floors are all here in this special 1916 Traditional. Enjoy the living room with fireplace, a large formal dining room. Updated kitchen with eating area, 3+BR/2BA, family room & office space. Entertain on the large deck & frolic on the lawn area below. Near shops, bus, 580 Freeway access and Davie Tennis Stadium. This is a must see!!!

\$529,000

For more information, call
Ruby Ng, CRS or Karen Lum
 1-510 339-4779 or 1-510-339-4776
www.rubyng.com


COLDWELL BANKER

NEW TOWNHOUSE LISTING
Open Sunday • February 4 • 2-4:30 pm

77 Ironwood, Oakland

Sequoyah Heights Townhouse
Three bedrooms / 2 & half baths
Bay views
San Francisco / Golden Gate / Bay Bridge view from master suite
Upgraded kitchen
Two-car attached garage

Offered at \$369,000

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RICHMOND VIEW

Remodeled Dream House.....\$269,900
4BR, 1BA, new kitchen and bath, gleaming hardwood floors, new roof, new windows, new appliances, formal dining room, new paint in and out, professionally landscaped. #01000085. Jack Burns Jr. (510) 662-8502.



439 Dimm St. Open Sun. 2-4.
Stunning Tudor In The View!.....\$399,950
 3BR, 1.5BA. Fresh paint, interior paint, updated kitchen,
 refinished hardwood floors, family room downstairs basement
 w/Berber carpets and separate entrance, formal dining room,
 fabulous level backyard. Oozing with charm! #01002781.
 Carlad@azqva.com (510) 662-8558.

RICHMOND ANNEX

Near El Cerrito Plaza.....\$270,000
2BR, 1BA, lots of upgrades, new windows, large backyard,
1 car attached garage, big rooms. #00041455. Ed Messner
(510) 662-8494.

EL SOBRENTE/RICHMOND

Lovely Starter Home.....\$238,888
3BR, 1BA, move-in condition, central heat, carport, freshly painted, new carpets, all one level, hardwood floors, backyard, nice quiet street. #01001027. John Anderson (510) 222-0633.

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LENDER	30yr CONVENTIONAL RATE+POINTS(APR)	30yr JUMBO RATE+POINTS(APR)	7/1 ARM RATE+POINTS(APR)	5/1 ARM RATE+POINTS(APR)	3/1 ARM RATE+POINTS(APR)	Additional Programs
Cal Fed Lending 925-256-9667	6.875+.991(7.03) 7+.551(7.11)	7.25+1(7.36) 7.375+.259(7.41)	6.875+.661(7.71) 7+.244(7.2)	6.75+.346(7.14) 6.875+0(7.16)	6.375+.63(7.13) 6.625+0(7.15)	Ask about our FHA and CAL STRS Loan Program, \$2,000 time home buyer grant, Free pre-qualification. For refinancing pricing options call (925)-256-9667.
CMG Mortgage Inc. 800-958-5339	6.5+2.5(6.85) 6.75+1.375(6.91) 7.125+0(7.21)	7+2.375(7.33) 7.25+.875(7.43) 7.5+0(7.66)	6.825+2.50(7.44) 7+1.375(7.58) 7.5+0(7.78)	6.375+2.375(7.46) 6.875+1(7.37) 7.25+0(7.47)	6.5+1.5(7.54) 6.75+1(7.48) 7.375+0(7.55)	Aggressive financing for people with less than perfect credit. Refinances, Prequalifications, Second mortgages. Call Mike 7 days a week. Open Saturdays and Sundays.
Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148	6.5+2(6.74)	7+2.375(7.28)	NA	0+0(0)	0+0+0(0)	Direct lender, 40 years experience. All types of conventional Fixed and ARM mortgages.
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626	6.875+0(6.99)	7.375+0(7.50)	7+0(7.12)	6.825+0(6.74)	6.875+0(6.99)	Credit problems, bankrupt, difficult loans our specialty. government loans. 100% loans, credit lines, construction 20 years of service. Appointments anytime! 1-800-837-5626

Information is current as of January 30, 2003. For information on specific mortgage programs, the lender. Rates, points and loan amounts are subject to change and cannot be guaranteed. Points include discount and origination fees. Most quotes are for 30-day lock-in, unless otherwise stated. Rates quoted are based on loan amounts of \$125,000. Maximum conventional loan amount \$275,000; jumbo loans are in excess of \$275,000. Annual Percentage Rate (APR)—an interest rate reflecting the cost of a mortgage as a yearly rate. The rate is likely to be higher than the stated note rate or advertised rate on the mortgage, because it takes into account points and other credit costs. The APR allows homeowners to compare different types of mortgages based on the annual cost for each loan. ARM—adjustable rate mortgage. LTV—loan to value. M—monthly installment. NA—not available. HC—not quoted. Lenders, to be listed in this paid column, call 1-800-338-6575. To receive state mortgage payments using your credit card, call 1-800-338-6575. For more information on mortgage rates, real estate, and consumer financial information, visit www.consumerfinance.gov.

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WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA

1000 Burbank St - \$360,000
 1000 Central Av #G - \$190,000
 1000 Chatham Pointe - \$668,000
 1000 Crown Dr - \$530,000
 1000 Independence #46 - \$350,000
 1000 Indian Bay - \$545,000
 1000 Regent St - \$380,000
 1000 Santa Clara Av - \$445,000
 1000 Schiller St - \$296,500
 1000 Webster St #E31 - \$135,000

ALBANY

1000 Carmel Av - \$375,000
 1000 Cornell Av - \$402,000
 1000 Kains Av - \$285,000
 1000 Pierce St #120 - \$270,000
 1000 Pierce St #130 - \$290,000

BERKELEY

1000 6th St - \$275,000
 1000 6th St - \$342,500
 1000 6th St - \$342,500
 1000 Blake St - \$335,000
 1000 Blake St - \$425,000
 1000 Dwight Wy - \$650,000
 1000 Key Route Bl - \$486,000
 1000 McGee Av - \$430,000
 1000 Miller Av - \$1,650,000
 1000 Warring St - \$1,300,000

CERRITO

1000 Liberty St - \$330,000

CONCORD

1000 S. P. Dam Rd A1 - \$85,000

EMERYVILLE

1000 30th St - \$170,000
 1000 57th St - \$301,000
 1000 61st St - \$325,000
 1000 Commodore #A304 - \$220,000

OAKLAND

1000 22nd Av - \$250,000
 1000 51st St - \$350,000
 1000 54th Av - \$93,000
 1000 55th Av - \$240,000
 1000 55th St - \$301,000
 1000 61st St - \$475,000
 1000 81st Av - \$247,000
 1000 82nd Av - \$285,000
 1000 83rd Av - \$165,500
 1000 85th Av - \$160,000
 1000 8th St #3F - \$170,000
 1000 Acadianes Dr - \$190,000
 1000 Arizona St - \$448,000
 1000 Arthur St - \$175,000
 1000 Balmoral Dr - \$747,000
 1000 Banning Dr - \$390,000
 1000 Bayo St - \$210,000
 1000 Bowles Pl - \$857,000
 1000 Cañon Dr - \$330,000
 1000 Congress Av - \$270,000
 1000 Contra Costa Rd - \$1,245,000
 1000 East 24th St - \$180,000
 1000 Elinora Av - \$387,000
 1000 Flora St - \$125,000
 1000 Fruitvale Av - \$350,000
 1000 Hanly Rd - \$290,000
 1000 Havenscourt Bl - \$135,500
 1000 High St #103 - \$200,000
 1000 Ironwood - \$365,000
 1000 Lawlor St - \$104,000
 1000 Lenox Av #310 - \$195,000
 1000 Liese Av - \$271,000
 1000 Locksley Av - \$545,000
 1000 Madison St - \$126,000
 1000 Morgan Av - \$535,000
 1000 Moss Av - \$519,000
 1000 Oakwood Dr - \$520,000
 1000 Olive St - \$120,000
 1000 Orange St #109 - \$121,000
 1000 Pearl St #106 - \$155,000
 1000 Redding Pl - \$307,500
 1000 Ridgewood Dr - \$610,000
 1000 Starview Dr - \$865,000
 1000 Telegraph Av - \$475,000
 1000 Underhills Rd - \$680,000
 1000 Vernon St - \$300,000
 1000 Vista St - \$579,000
 1000 Woodminster 102 - \$165,000
 1000 York St #335 - \$207,000

MONTGOMERY

1000 Moraga Av - \$471,000
 1000 St. James Dr - \$800,000

RICHMOND

1000 8th St - \$305,000
 1000 Burbeck Av - \$185,000
 1000 McBryde Av - \$221,000
 1000 Ocean Av - \$100,000
 1000 Powder Bowl Ct - \$556,000
 1000 South 42nd St - \$110,000
 1000 Virginia Av - \$115,000

SAN LEANDRO

1000 142nd Av #129 - \$260,000
 1000 150th Av - \$280,000
 1000 Belvedere Av #13 - \$210,000
 1000 Belvedere Av - \$250,000
 1000 Birch St - \$310,000
 1000 Estabrook St - \$237,000
 1000 Gramercy Dr - \$362,500
 1000 Ivy Cr - \$273,000
 1000 Kings Ct - \$201,500
 1000 Lee Av - \$400,000
 1000 Locust St - \$336,000
 1000 Nome St - \$290,000
 1000 Overlook Ct - \$548,000
 1000 Trombas Av - \$293,500
 1000 Woodgate Dr - \$245,000

see SALES on page B10

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A short 2 minute walk to North Berkeley BART. Open the front gate to your own private world! Absolutely charming remodeled home, high ceilings, skylights, updated kitchen, French doors open from family room onto deck and yard. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, plus detached studio/office. See it at www.marvingardens.com.

\$439,000 Open Sunday 2-4
 1712 Eloa St., Berkeley
 Ann Arriola Plant 527-2700 x27



FEATURED IN SUNSET MAGAZINE

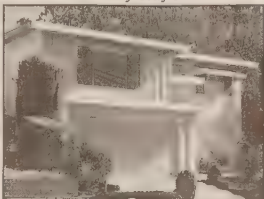
Dramatic contemporary 4 bedroom, 3 bath home includes elegant master suite w/Bay view. Unusually spacious living & dining room, perfect for entertaining. Tongue-&-groove hardwood floors throughout. Stunning lofted library, modern tile kitchen, beautiful private garden.

\$665,000
 Open Sunday 2-4
 1139 Shevlin, El Cerrito
 Mary Gray 559-2939

GOLDEN GATE & BAY VIEW

First time on the market in 30 years. This spacious 3+ bedroom, 2.5 bath property is a place to call home and enjoy the sunsets. Family room, move-in condition and popular location.

\$485,000
 Open Sunday 2-4
 416 Seaview, El Cerrito
 Diana Mendler 559-2937



TEMESCAL/EMERYVILLE TRIPLEX

Three 1 bedroom, 1 bath units near Emeryville border and Children's Hospital. Good investment opportunity in desirable location.

\$295,000
 825 46th St., Oakland
 Mary Lou Loomis 559-2919



DRAMATIC CONTEMPORARY HOME

Soaring vaulted ceiling, sunny open floor plan, spacious gourmet kitchen and formal dining room. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths including 2 master suites. Exclusive access to pool, spa, tennis courts.

\$269,000
 Open Sunday 2-4
 3200 Southridge,
 Richmond/Hilltop
 Todd Hodson 559-2915



CHARMING MEDITERRANEAN

2 bedroom cottage with a tiled bath, marble fireplace in the living room, formal dining room and lovely updated kitchen. Sunny back yard with deck. Detached garage with opener.

\$259,000
 Open Sunday 2-4
 658 32nd St., Richmond N&E
 Mary Lou Loomis 559-2919

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Angela Wei Grubb

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 Newer traditional home featuring 5 bedrooms 3 baths, light hardwood floors, a gorgeous new pool and spa, and professionally landscaped yard. Visit our website for a Virtual Tour!



Two Years New! \$739,000
 Lovely traditional home located in a fabulous gated community with 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths large kitchen, gorgeous master suite, raised fireplace, 2 car garage and RV parking.

ALAMO \$2,350,000
 New construction on 3 acres with 4 bedrooms + library, gourmet kitchen with custom cherry cabinets, 5600 sq.ft. and views for miles! Visit our website for a Virtual Tour!

DANVILLE \$624,950
 Located in prestigious Blackhawk Country Club featuring 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, a great floor plan, 3 car garage, and a nicely landscaped yard with hot tub.

LAFAYETTE \$739,000
 Charming home with a great cul-de-sac location and views! Featuring 3 bedrooms and bonus/recreation room, 2+ baths, private backyard with pool and a great woody setting.

SAN LEANDRO \$749,000
 A single family home and three duplexes! A total of seven units for sale. Don't miss this one. Call today!



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3694 Happy Valley Road 1130 Camino Vallecito 576 Dalewood Drive 580 Dalewood Drive 17 Normandy Lane 72 Tappan Lane 20 Culver Court 31 Fallen Leaf Terrace 393 Miner Road 1101 Arlington Boulevard 32 Candle Terrace 90 Crocker Avenue 157 Wildwood Gardens 159 Crestview Drive 61 Meadow View Road 3058 Benvenue Avenue 2 Huff Court 90 Crocker Avenue 3058 Benvenue Avenue 2 Huff Court 409 Dalewood Drive 660 La Casa Via 16 Del Mar Court 641 Mt. Duncan 2560 Walnut Boulevard 3858 Hanley Road 12 Fallen Leaf Terrace 45 Dudley Court 42 Los Altos 1236 Rose Lane 3320 North Lucille Lane 62 Shuey Drive 659 Happy Valley Road 730 Camino Vallecito 576 Dalewood Drive 80 Dalewood Drive 17 Normandy Lane 72 Tappan Lane 20 Culver Court 31 Fallen Leaf Terrace 393 Miner Road 1101 Arlington Boulevard 32 Candle Terrace 90 Crocker Avenue 157 Wildwood Gardens 159 Crestview Drive 61 Meadow View Road 45 Dudley Court 62 Shuey Drive 12 Fallen Leaf Terrace 72 Tappan 3058 Benvenue Avenue 2 Huff Court 409 Dalewood Drive 660 La Casa Via 16 Del Mar Court 641 Mt. Duncan 2560 Walnut Boulevard 3858 Hanley Road 12 Fallen Leaf Terrace 45 Dudley Court 42 Los Altos 1236 Rose Lane 1133 Estates 1 Indian Gulch Road 3320 North Lucille Lane 62 Shuey Drive

The Jerilynn Babington Team • 925-253-4601 / 253-4614



Sales

FROM PAGE B9

SAN LORENZO

15548 Tracy St - \$205,000
17431 Via Julia - \$335,000
15723 Via Lunado - \$270,000

On the average

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 10
LOWEST PRICE: \$135,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$668,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$389,950

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$270,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$402,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$290,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$324,400

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 10
LOWEST PRICE: \$275,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,650,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$623,600

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$330,000

Help with home buying

Home Buyer 101 is presented at no cost by facilitators, Karen Ward of RE Loan Mortgage in Albany and Grace Bishop of Red Oak Realty. Real Estate Finance 101 is for first-time homebuyers, with a soup to nuts summary of all aspects of homebuying. Demystify the purchase process and become an educated consumer. Attendees will learn about loan choices and closing costs. The next date is tomorrow from 10 a.m. to noon. For reservations call 510-718-2134.

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 1
PRICE: \$ 85,000

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 4
LOWEST PRICE: \$170,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$325,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$254,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 49
LOWEST PRICE: \$ 93,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,245,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$285,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$347,561

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$471,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$800,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$635,500

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 7
LOWEST PRICE: \$100,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$556,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$185,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$227,429

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 15
LOWEST PRICE: \$201,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$548,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$280,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$299,767

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST PRICE: \$205,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$335,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$270,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$270,000

This list was compiled for publication in Hills Newspapers by TitleTech of Oakland which obtains weekly records from the county recorder's office. Neither company guarantees accuracy or completeness of the information.

Sales prices are estimated based upon applicable county transfer taxes.

All questions regarding this information and any requests for additional listings and services provided by TitleTech should be directed to Bud Gorham at 510-568-7233 or TitleNotes@aol.com.

Coming Soon

New Listing!



59 Montell Street, Oakland
Cottage charm in the desirable Piedmont Avenue neighborhood. Two bedrooms, one bath home with high ceilings, fireplace and basement. Sunny garden and deck. Offered at \$349,000
Katherine Cooper
Office: 339.0400/211
Residence: 652.2265
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Prudential California Realty

*** Indicates Homes Being Held Open**

OAKLAND / PIEDMONT

Fabulous Contemporary.....\$3,450,000
Two master suites. Separate guest quarters. Tennis court, pool on an acre.
Faye Magee 510-433-9709

*** Open Sunday 2-4:30.....\$995,000**
708 Grizzly Terrace. Elegant contemporary, 2-level, 4BD/2+BA. Virtual Tour available!
Howard Converse 510-339-9290

*** Open Sunday, 2-4:30.....\$575,000**
8133 Coach Drive. New listing! See the spectacular bay view from this 4BD/3.5BA home.
Myrtice Lin Wong 510-339-9290

Sunny, Secluded Home \$549,000
3BD/2BA one-level home on 2 lots. Peaceful setting with views, hot tub.
Vickie Robinson & Aleso Gourhan 510-428-0900

*** Open Sunday, 2-4:30.....\$449,000**
3975 Turnley. Move into this beautiful ranch style 4BD/2BA home with great hardwood floors.
Ed Marshall 510-339-9290

*** Wonderful Home with In-Law Unit.....\$259,000**
Open Sunday 2-4, 7924 Sterling Drive. This level-in home offers 2BD/1BA on the first floor and a spacious 1BD, new tile BA and kitchen down. Great location with hill views.
Carol Heath-Kim 510-527-9800

*** Open Sunday 2-4:30.....\$225,000**
4629 Tulip. New listing! Walk to the Laurel from this promising 3BD/2BA home.
Dollie Henson 510-339-9290

Cute and Convenient.....\$195,000
Lower Laurel 2BD/1.5BA Edwardian on big lot. Updated kitchen, hardwood floor. Parking.
Arthur G. White 510-845-0200

Bargain Condo.....\$125,000
Big 1BD/1BA condo in small bldg. W/D in unit, new carpet, new stove, vaulted ceiling, fireplace, parking.
Lydia Nayo 510-869-2714 vm 845-0200

ALAMEDA

Alameda Charmer.....\$325,000
3BD/1BA house amid exotic plants. Hardwood floors, garage. Bring all offers now!
Jennie Wong 510-869-4922 vm 337-8670

SAN LEANDRO

Must See!.....\$365,000
Rear 2 story, over 2000 sq.ft. Recently remodeled 3BD/2BA home.
Victoria Case 510-834-2010

BERKELEY/ALBANY

Family Home - 2 Story.....\$425,000
3BD/1.5BA, big yard, 2 car garage + parking. Near 4th St., great location. First time on market in over 50 years.
Camille Rogers 510-845-0200

Huge Lovely Yard.....\$399,000
Level-in, 3BD/2BA house in Berkeley Hills. Family room, eat-in kitchen, fireplaces, sunny garden. Lots of potential.
Ana & Pascal Forest 510-845-0200

*** Albany Listing!.....\$250,000**
1st Open, 2-4! 717 Buchanan @ Pierce. Cutie! 2BD/1BA, new paint, refin. hardwood floors, easy commute.
Felicia Jenkins 510-526-5143

*** Berkeley.....\$245,000**
Open 1-4:30. 1505 Russell. Be the first to see this weekend! 2BD/1BA. Close to everything!
Jim Parkhurst 510-527-9800

New Price Reduction!.....\$749,000
See Virtual Tour at: www.pruweb.com/Barbaralevy. 3 extensively remodeled condos with electrical and seismic upgrades, parking, alarm systems, elegant features and much more. Each 1BD sold for \$220,000. 3BD for \$279,000. (All 3 together for \$749,000)
Barbara Levy 510-869-2786, 849-3711

WEST COUNTY

*** 1st Time Offered!.....\$519,000**
Open 2-4. 282 Grizzly Peak, Kensington. Gorgeous 3BD/1BA in serene area. A New Orleans lady with gardens galore!
Lillie Brady 510-526-5143

Move-In Condition!.....\$315,000
1892 Carquinez, Richmond. View. 3BD/2BA, family room with fireplace, 2 car garage, hardwood floors, small yard. Great area!
Carmen Grim 510-869-5556, 510-524-3231

RESIDENTIAL INCOME

Grand Lake Fourplex.....\$875,000
Elegant Med. bldg. with spacious flats, hardwoods, 3 garages. Excellent condition. Strong rents. Walk to BART.
Richard Matus 510-834-2010

Super-Duper Duplex.....\$529,000
Best Berkeley location. Walk to BART. Fanny's and 4th St. 3BD/2BA owner's unit and 2BD/1BA second unit. Light, bright and move right in.
Gaby Olander 510-526-2418, 849-3711

Charming Triplex.....\$429,000
Shingled triplex, centrally located near BART, UCB and College Ave. One 2BD/1BA and two 1BD/1BA units.
Ted Normant 510-428-0900

Sweet Temescal Duplex.....\$389,000
Great for owner/occupant investor. Updated carpet and paint. Clean, vacant, well cared for.
Susan Alperstein 510-834-2010

West Oakland Fixer.....\$225,000
Two 2BD flats or 1 large Victorian home. Parking in rear. Near Emeryville. Access on 2 streets.
Arthur White 510-845-0200

LOTS FOR SALE

Great Rockridge Lot.....\$750,000
Spectacular views and level building area. Build to suit with the August Company.
Bill Boze 510-339-9290

Claremont - Lot - 3 Bridge.....\$685,000
Approved PD Gilbert plans. 5+BD/4BA luxury contemporary.
Nancy Platford 510-845-0200

Lot - Chabot Highlands.....\$240,000
18,000 sq.ft. in estate area. Plans! Designer home.
Nancy Platford 510-845-0200

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ALBANY (510) 339-9290
BERKELEY (510) 845-0200
BERKELEY NORTH (510) 845-0200
CLAREMONT (916) 463-4071
EL CERRITO (510) 337-8670
GRAND LAKE (510) 834-2010
KENSINGTON (510) 845-0200
MONTCLAIR (510) 845-0200
PIEDMONT (510) 339-9290

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The following are some of the homes where MONTCLAIR BETTER HOMES represented either the Buyer or the Seller in the year 2000

Address	Bd/Ba	List Price	Sales Price	% Sales Price/List Price	Sq. Ft.	DOM	Address	Bd/Ba	List Price	Sales Price	% Sales Price/List Price	Sq. Ft.	DOM
Crocker Avenue	4/2	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	100%	3493	1	Underhills Road	3/2	\$459,000	\$610,000	133%	1864	9
Amito Drive	4/3	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	100%	5000	14	Oak Crest Drive	3/2	\$475,000	\$607,000	128%	2002	23
Contra Costa Road	4/3	\$949,000	\$949,000	95%	3200	25	Chadbourne Way	3/2	\$400,000	\$600,000	167%	1464	19
Alvarado Road	5/3	\$925,000	\$935,000	101%			Arimo Avenue	2/2	\$469,000	\$600,000	128%	1378	18
Taurus Avenue	4/2	\$925,000	\$925,000	100%			63rd Street	2/1	\$499,000	\$586,000	152%	1317	11
Proctor Avenue	3/2	\$729,000	\$918,000	126%	2448	10	Mandana Boulevard	4/3	\$479,000	\$585,000	122%	2288	11
Mawelton Road	4/3	\$1,088,000	\$907,000	83%	2874	35	Pinehaven Road	4/3	\$429,000	\$580,000	135%	2280	19
Broadway Terrace	2/2	\$879,000	\$879,000	100%			Clover Drive	3/1	\$450,000	\$567,500	126%	1518	11
Castle Park Way	5/3	\$749,000	\$855,000	114%	3194	15	Doran Drive	4/3	\$449,000	\$560,000	125%	2531	16
Brundell Drive	3/3	\$749,500	\$855,000	114%	3269	7	LaCresta Avenue	4/2	\$525,000	\$555,000	106%	1986	15
Valle Vista Avenue	5/4	\$839,500	\$850,000	101%	4494	16	Snake Road	2/1	\$459,000	\$555,000	121%	2006	15
Bay Forest Place	4/2	\$839,000	\$850,000	101%	3168	10	Harrison Street	2/2	\$499,000	\$551,000	110%	2111	13
Wildwood Place	3/2	\$799,000	\$845,000	106%	2274	12	Melvin Road	3/2	\$429,000	\$545,000	127%	1914	15
Buckeye Avenue	4/2	\$629,000	\$820,000	130%	2274	12	Edgewood Avenue	3/1	\$389,000	\$535,000	138%	1328	15
Blair Avenue	2/2	\$798,000	\$820,000	103%	2803	23	Woodland Place	3/2	\$399,000	\$531,000	133%	1731	10
Casterline Road	4/2	\$625,000	\$806,000	129%	2174	15	Brookvale Drive	3/1	\$545,000	\$530,000	97%	1508	2
Swinland Road	4/3	\$759,000	\$806,000	106%	2911	9	Gregory Place	4/2	\$529,000	\$529,000	100%	1950	33
Shepherd Canyon	4/3	\$749,000	\$800,000	107%	3665	26	Greenwood Avenue	4/2	\$495,000	\$529,000	107%	2182	17
Rosa Street	4/2	\$775,000	\$783,334	101%	2240	17	Steinmetz Way	3/2	\$495,000	\$525,000	106%	2184	11
Manzanita Drive	4/2	\$675,000	\$781,000	116%			Skyline Drive	3/1	\$369,000	\$525,000	142%	1191	9
Shawnee Court	4/3	\$579,000	\$751,000	130%	2682	17	Elderberry Drive	3/2	\$512,000	\$515,000	108%	2835	33
View Drive	4/4	\$798,000	\$750,000	94%	3774	27	Hampel Street	3/2	\$435,000	\$510,000	117%		24
Admore Avenue	4/3	\$529,000	\$748,000	141%	2634	11	Detroit Avenue	3/1	\$340,000	\$510,000	160%	1425	13
Wood Drive	4/3	\$730,000	\$740,000	101%	2930	53	Doncaster Place	3/2	\$425,000	\$502,000	118%	1444	12
Prospect Road	3/1	\$549,000	\$726,995	132%	2070	14	Santa Ray Avenue	3/1	\$449,000	\$501,000	91%	1704	19
Lawton Avenue	3/2	\$559,000	\$725,000	130%	1936	13	Skyline Boulevard	4/2	\$449,000	\$500,000	111%	1860	20
Indian Rock Avenue	3/2	\$699,000	\$720,000	103%	1868	12	Paloma Avenue	3/2	\$439,000	\$497,925	113%	1469	36
Kenmore Avenue	2/2	\$499,500	\$718,000	144%	2408	12	Binnacle Hill	2/2	\$399,000	\$495,000	124%	1409	12
Snake Road	4/2	\$595,000	\$703,000	118%	1974	1	Fair Avenue	2/2	\$359,000	\$492,722	137%	2052	12
Chelton Drive	3/2	\$549,000	\$696,000	127%	2390	11	Melvin Drive	4/2	\$469,000	\$489,000	104%	2160	24
Mounmain Gate Way	4/3	\$599,000	\$685,000	114%	2803	18	Harborview Drive	3/2	\$465,000	\$476,000	102%	1821	8
Mandana Boulevard	3/2	\$529,000	\$680,000	129%	1896	16	Upper Fruitvale	5/2	\$525,000	\$475,000	91%	3126	8
Edge Drive	3/3	\$535,000	\$675,000	127%	1582	10	View Drive	3/3	\$489,950	\$475,000	97%	2827	13
Hilltop Crescent	3/2	\$499,000	\$675,000	135%	1504	13	Calandria Avenue	4/2	\$475,000	\$475,000	100%	2097	13
Bateman Street	5/2	\$535,000	\$673,000	126%	1425	12	Hansom Drive	4/2	\$459,000	\$475,000	106%	2126	8
San Sebastian Avenue	3/3	\$549,000	\$665,000	121%	2516	15	Majestic Avenue	2/1	\$479,000	\$474,000	99%	1474	22
Santa Ray Avenue	4/2	\$525,000	\$656,000	110%	3099	21	Benevides Avenue	3/2	\$385,000	\$473,000	123%	1658	20
Grand View Drive	5/4	\$699,000	\$650,000	93%			Puddingstone Road	3/2	\$379,000	\$471,000	124%	1503	12
Chelton Drive	4/2	\$639,000	\$639,000	100%	2366	41	Armour Drive	5/3	\$399,000	\$470,000	107%	2600	21
LaSalle Avenue	3/2	\$599,000	\$635,000	106%	1818	25	San Sebastian Avenue	2/2	\$395,000	\$470,000	119%	1960	47
Benvenue Avenue	3/1	\$479,000	\$626,100	131%	1374	9	Pinehaven Road	3/2	\$439,500	\$469,000	107%	1660	23
Sunnyhills Road	4/3	\$475,000	\$625,000	132%	2038	14	Elsinore Avenue	2/1	\$369,000	\$466,000	126%	1332	16
Calton Boulevard	3/2	\$449,000	\$620,000	138%	2308	10	Thornhill Drive	2/1	\$389,000	\$465,000	120%	1072	31
							Camelford Place	3/2	\$399,000	\$465,000	117%	1769	14

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The Sea Ranch.....\$900,000
Beautiful oceanfront showcase home with fantastic views, many great features. Almost 2000 sq.ft., 2 story home. 2BR, 2BA.



Stylish Traditional.....\$649,000
Totally remodeled circa 1930's traditional with SF/Golden Gate view. Courtyard entry, many decks, level yard. Private master suite.

STEVEN BIASATTI ext. 239



Look At The Deer, Dear!.....\$495,000
Capacious, view home with a working deer trail. Decks, wall of glass living room, master BR/BA. 4BR, 2BA. Come see.

NICK LAVROV ext. 219



San Mateo-S.F.-Marin Views!.....\$TBA
View the night lights of Oakland, San Francisco thru floor-to-ceiling windows from this charming 2BR, 2BA home with 1BR, 1BA in-law. Wood floors, beamed ceilings. Romantic sunsets while cozied by the raised brick fireplace.

KATHRINA VERZOSA ext. 240



Grand Victorian Fixer.. \$399,000
4BR, sun room, library, 2BA, formal dining, living room fireplace, spacious with lots of light.

ANGELA LAWSON ext. 224



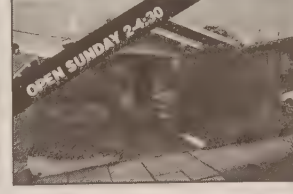
New Listing, Piedmont Avenue.....\$299,000
Charming starter home on quiet, sunny side of the street. Hardwood, formal dining, garage. 1+BR. Yard & garden. Probate sale.

HAL CASTLE ext. 220



Charming Trad. W/Sep. In-law Apt.....\$349,000
Updated 3BR home with separate studio/in-law unit. Lovely setting on cul-de-sac. Fenced yard, fireplace, hardwood floors. Close to transportation.

LOIS JOHNSON ext. 226



Room To Spare!.....\$325,000
Come and see this large and newly renovated home with great potential for home office, extended family or who knows...

TOM NEMETH ext. 249

Coming Soon: Fabulous Townhouse.....\$375,000
San Francisco Bay view, hardwood floors, 2BR, 2.5BA, office/den. Wonderful recreational facility including pool.....GAYLE TANTAU, CINDY BOZE ext. 260

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You're invited to preview Meadow Creek Springs in Antioch and Heritage Ranch in Manteca. Seeno Homes is proud to present these two new communities of spacious single and two story homes. Meadow Creek Springs, with homes up to 3312 sq.ft., has something for everyone. Conveniently located near parks, schools and shopping, it is priced from the upper \$200,000's. Heritage Ranch, with homes up to 4383 sq.ft., features estate size homesites and country living in a commute friendly environment. Prices for these homes start in the mid \$200,000's. But hurry in, you won't want to miss the opportunity to be among the first to own in these two new neighborhoods.



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Pittsburg
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From the high \$200,000's
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Estates at Southbrook
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1,983 - 3,312 sq.ft.
From the low \$300,000's
(707) 864-0225

Westgate Estates
Vacaville
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From the mid \$200,000's
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Meadow Creek Springs
Antioch
1,865-3,312 sq. ft.
From the high \$200,000's
(925) 755-9270

Mira Vista
Antioch
1,983 - 3,312 sq. ft.
From the mid \$200,000's
(925) 755-3563

Wildrose
Fairfield
1,211 - 2,400 sq. ft.
From the mid \$200,000's
(707) 207-0151

PREVIEW OPENING
Heritage Ranch
Manteca
1,983-4,383 sq. ft.
From the mid \$200,000's
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Opening**



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YOUR WEEKEND GUIDE

OPEN HOMES

OPEN SUNDAY*

ALAMEDA

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
227 Creedon Open Sat & Sun Darle Vessal 510-814-4824; Harbor Bay Realty	580/4.5BA	2-4	\$1,388,000
1325 Clinton Hanna Fry 510-521-5475, Valerie Newman 510-523-7214 Kane & Associates	480/-BA	2-4	\$825,000
806 Grand St Alice Garvin, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-748-1116	4BA/2 - BA	2-4	\$875,000
1050 San Antonio Barbara Roberts, Bill Douglas 510-814-4839 Harbor Bay Realty	480/2BA	2-4	\$538,000
424 Channing Open Sat & Sun Mark Pyle, 510-814-4874, Sid Boring 510-814-4816, Harbor Bay Realty	380/2.5BA	2-4	\$679,000
1700 Cornell Open Sat & Sun Nancy Gordon 510-814-4815 Harbor Bay Realty	3 + 80/1BA	2-4	\$598,950
1726 Lafayette Vince San Nicolas, Alameda Realty 510-522-8565	280/2BA	2-4/20	\$550,000
130 Ratto Connie Hanna 510-814-4814 Harbor Bay Realty	2 + 80/2BA	2-4	\$620,000
1229 Broadway Sun 11:00am-6:00pm Sue Hoesberger, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-748-1114	38A/2BA	2-4	\$515,000
1620 Wood St Duplex, 2-280/1BA Ul L'Roal 510-523-9444, Kane & Associates	80/-BA	2-4	\$450,000
1816 Lafayette Mina Quan, 510-814-4836 Harbor Bay Realty	380/1 - BA	12-2	\$450,000
1322 Regent St Kathy Ghiselli, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-522-6425	2 + 80/2BA	2-4	\$434,500
1610 High St Nancy Brandt, 510-814-4823, Margaret Lomba 510-814-4823, Harbor Bay Realty	480/1BA	2-4	\$424,900
1340 Fernside Mina Quan 510-814-4836 Harbor Bay Realty	280/2BA 2-30-430	2-4	\$398,000
30 Oak Park Open Sat & Sun Ul L'Roal 510-523-9444, Pat Colburn 510-865-3460 Kane & Associates	280/2 + BA	2-4	\$394,000
1216 Swaine Blvd Karen Kellenberger, 510-522-6682 Kane & Associates	280/2 + BA	2-4	\$385,000
1428 Cottage Julie Rivard 510-814-4870 Harbor Bay Realty	2 + 80/1BA	2-4	\$380,000
1712 Willow Jennie Wong 510-869-4922 Prudential CA Realty	380/1BA	2-4/20	\$325,000

ALBANY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
930 Carmel Ave. Joanette Medina, C-21 Hartford Prop., 415-575-8162	480/2BA	2-4/20	\$499,000
819 Curtis St. Diane 510-524-8508 Jones Realty	3 BA/1 BA	2-4	\$325,000
717 Buchanan Rayne Palmer, Prudential CA Realty, 510-526-5143	280/1BA	2-4	\$250,000

BERKELEY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2356 Corona Ct Ron Egberman 510-852-2133 ext.127, Templeton Leverette Co.	380/2BA	2-4/20	\$775,000
2927 Florence Elmwood Ron Templeton 510-852-2133 ext.131, Templeton Leverette Co.	380/2BA	2-4/20	\$749,000
25 Evergreen Ln Charmaine Hill Bob McFay 510-652-2133 ext.145, Templeton Leverette Co.	280/2BA	2-4/20	\$739,000
36 Tamalpais Rd Berkeley Nancy Scherill, 510-652-2133 ext.144, Templeton Leverette Co.	3 + 80/2BA	2-4	\$690,000
1612 Tacoma Theresa Dicks Anne Van Dyle, 510-652-2133 ext.127, Templeton Leverette Co.	380/1BA	1-4	\$539,000

BERKELEY

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1067 Park Hills Berkeley Marie Delacruz, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	380/2 + BA	2-4/20	\$495,000
2312 Valley RED OAK, 510-280-2138, Billy	3rd/2ba Sun 2-4/30	2-4/30	\$475,000
2118 8th St. Chris Elbers-Harble 510-524-9888 x22 Berkeley Hills RE	3/2nd/2ba	2-4	\$448,000
1712 Eola St. Ann Arisla Plant 510-527-7270 x27 Morrin Gardens	280/1BA	2-4	\$439,000
1809 9th st. Prudential, Camille Rogers, 510-845-0200	3rd Sun 2-4	2-4/25,000	
1650 Keith Prudential, Ana Forest, 510-845-0200	3rd	2-4	\$399,000
1650 Keith Ana & Pascal Forest 510-273-8352/845-0200 Prudential CA Realty	380/2BA	2-4	\$399,000
439 Arlington Ave. Lille Brandy 510-644-5262 Prudential CA Realty	180/1BA	2-4	\$395,000
1632 Curtis Tracy Sichtenauer 510-524-8888 x27 Berkeley Hills RE	2 bd/4ba	2-4	\$375,000
2725 Prince #10 RED OAK, 510-280-2122, Keith	1 + 1bd/1ba Sun 2-4/30	2-4/30	\$199,500
1604 63rd St. RED OAK, 510-280-2122, Edna or Creative Property Svcs., 707-569-2183, Melissa	3 + 1bd/1ba Sun 2-4	2-4/30	\$199,000

EL CERRITO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1139 Shavlin Mary Gray 925-559-2939 Marvin Gardens RE	4 BA/3 BA	2-4	\$665,000
416 Seaview Blana Mendler 925-559-2937 Marvin Gardens RE	3 BA/2.5 BA	2-4	\$485,000
413 Alhambra Open Sat & Sun Debra Keefe, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-865-9940	2BA/1BA	1-4	\$295,000

EL SOBRANTE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
2 Quail Hill Court El Soborante Emily Lane, Prudential 510-339-9290	380/1 + BA	1-4	\$249,500

EMERYVILLE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1946 48th St. RED OAK, 510-280-2118, Gloria	1 + 1bd/1ba Sun 2-4	2-4/20	\$270,000

KENSINGTON

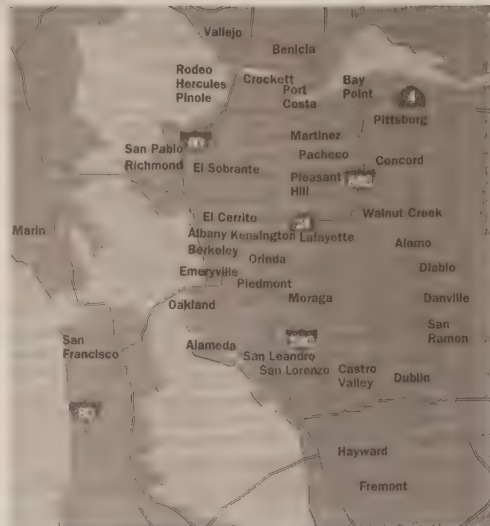
Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
10 Marchant Ct. RED OAK, 510-280-2109, Ratcliffe	2 + 1/2 Sun 2-4	2-4/20	\$870,000
624 Beloit Phyllis Hewett, Prudential CA Realty, 510-526-5143	480/3BA	2-4	\$595,000
282 Grizzly Park Lille Brandy, Prudential CA Realty, 510-526-5143	380/1BA	2-4	\$519,000
1605 Ocean View Kamagishi Sue Scherill 510-652-2133 ext.144, Templeton Leverette Co.	380/1BA	2-4	\$375,000

LAFAYETTE

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1023 Dyer Lafayette Leslie Ansell, 510-652-2133 ext.122, Templeton Leverette Co.	480/2BA	130-4	\$525,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1315 E. 32nd St. Lowe's Affiliated Brokers, Edmond Hau 510-636-1668	380/1BA	2-6	\$279,900
900 Alvarado Lille Brandy, Prudential CA Realty, 510-526-5143	480/2 + BA	2-4	\$1,695,000
900 Alvarado Lille Brandy 510-644-5262 Prudential CA Realty	480/2/-BA	2-4	\$1,695,000



OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
904 Alvarado Lille Brandy, Prudential CA Realty, 510-526-5143	480/3 - BA	2-4	\$1,595,000
904 Alvarado Lille Brandy 510-644-5262 Prudential CA Realty	480/3/-BA	2-4	\$1,595,000
6365 Fairlane Dr Montclair Susan Paul, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	380 Sales	2-4/20	\$1,539,000
6880 Exeter Dr Piedmont Pines Elmer Lancaster/Bell Dr., 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	4 + 84/38A	130-4/30	\$1,299,000
6375 Swainland Rd. John Kama, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	480/3 - BA	2-4/20	\$1,195,000
5670 Weaver Pl Hillcrest Estates Kurt Buchholz, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	480/3/-BA	2-4/20	\$1,059,000
708 Grizzly Terrace Oakland Hills Howard Converse, Prudential 510-339-9290	480/2 - BA	2-4/20	\$995,000
13050 Broadway Terr. Montclair Linda McClain, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	380/2 - BA	2-4/20	\$895,000
5535 Masonic Ave Upper Rockridge Michael Thompson, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	3 + 84/38A	2-6	\$895,000
1480 West View Dr Claremont Hills Patricia Scott 510-339-6460 ext. 315, Pacific Union	280/1 - BA	1-4	\$850,000
8945 Skyline Blvd Oakland Montclair Better Homes, Caroline Peters 510-869-5106	480/3BA	2-4/20	\$789,000
7085 Broadway Terr. Montclair Nader Daraf, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	38A/2BA	2-6	\$795,000
19 Bay Forest Dr. Oakland Joan Alford, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	38A/3 + BA	2-6	\$699,000
1823 Drake Dr Montclair Jeffrey Himmel 510-339-6460 ext. 307 Pacific Union	580/2BA	1-4	\$648,000
9485 Skyline Blvd. zfp Realty.com, 1-877-500-2510	280/2 - BA	1-4	\$639,000
5617 Ocean View Dr Prudential CA Realty, Julia Korp, 510-276-2029	280/1BA	12-3	\$599,000
5969 Bruns Ct Montclair Helen Danford 510-339-6460 ext. 356, Charlotte Boyle ext. 370, Pacific Union	380/2BA	2-4/20	\$599,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
8133 Coach Dr Oakland Hills Myrica Lin Wong, Prudential 510-339-9290	480/3 - BA	2-4/20	\$575,000
2506 Leimert Blvd. Upper Rockridge Montclair Better Homes, Patricia Bennett 510-482-9000	480/3BA	2-4/20	\$549,000
5825 Lawton Ave Rockridge Sheila Gallagher, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	380/2BA	2-4/20	\$549,000
11716 Cranford Wy Oakland Ann Nichols 510-339-6460 ext. 319 Pacific Union	3 + 80/2BA	2-4/20	\$539,000
1767 Woodhaven Wy Oakland Kathy Flynn 510-339-6460 ext. 317 Pacific Union	380/2BA	2-4/20	\$535,000
688 Armo Crocker Rudy Ng, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	3 + 84/2BA	1-4	\$529,000
5837 Chabot Ct. Upper Rockridge Becky Anderson, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	3 + 84/2BA	1-4	\$525,000
4296 Norton Ave Rockwood Heights Sara Ott Realty, Sara 510-525-4441	3 + 80/2BA	1-4	\$525,000
1000 Park Lane Crocker Highlands Nancy Mueller 510-524-9888 x20 Berkeley Hills RE	3 bd/2 ba	2-4	\$499,000
4144 Greenwood Glennview Joelle Cain, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	280/1 - BA	2-4/20	\$495,000
200 Modoc Ave Upper Rockridge Sherry Benninger, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	380/2BA	2-4/20	\$495,000
3199 Burdick Dr. Montclair Better Homes, Arnold Mueller 510-297-6577	2 + 80/2BA	2-4/20	\$459,000
3975 Turnley Sequoyia Hgts Ed Marshall, Prudential 510-339-9290	480/2BA	2-4/20	\$449,000
2820 Alida St. Lincoln Heights Rachel Bailey, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	38A/1BA	2-4/20	\$449,000
5526 Kakes Av Rockridge Joan E. House 510-339-6460 ext. 358 Pacific Union	80/-BA	2-4/20	\$449,000
32 Homeleg Rd Merrimack Teri Carlsie 510-339-6460 ext. 305, Pacific Union	380/2 + BA	1-4	\$439,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
940 Hollywood Av Montclair Better Homes, Mary Jane McCandless 510-287-4563	380/1BA	2-4/20	\$425,000
3375 Kwanin Redwood Heights Carolyn Dowd 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	38A/2ba	2-4/20	\$425,000
3834 Wisconsin Lafayette, Duplex (280-180) Carolyn Dowd 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	84/-Ba	2-4/20	\$419,000
10 Overlake Ct Montclair Pacific Union	380/2 + BA	2-4/20	\$419,000
4117 Gilbert Piedmont Ave Jack Brownman, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	28A/1Ba	2-6	\$399,000
351 Wayne Ave Oakland Montclair Better Homes, A.J. Hamel 510-869-5595	280/2BA	2-4/20	\$399,000
3858 Brighton Av Montclair Better Homes, Marissa Stein 510-287-8806	3 + 80/1BA	2-4/20	\$399,000
439 Arlington Phina Christy, Prudential CA Realty, 510-284-8805; 510-485-4743	180/1BA	2-4	\$399,000
428 37th St Alameda, Prudential CA Realty, 510-524-2525	30/2BA	1-4	\$379,000
1551 Excelsior Ave Montclair Mary Dresser, Prudential 510-339-9290	280/1BA	2-4/20	\$369,000
538 Mira Vista Grand Lake John Molloy, Prudential 510-763-4060	280/1BA	2-6	\$369,000
77 Ironwood Oakland Hills Robyn Mohr 510-339-6460 ext. 310, Pacific Union	380/2 - BA	2-4/20	\$369,000
6535 Buena Vista Grand Lake John Molloy, Prudential 510-763-4060	380/2BA	2-4	\$369,000
1282 Excelsior Ave Law Jacobson 510-339-6460 ext. 308 Pacific Union	280/-BA	2-4/20	\$359,000
220 Caldecott Lane Oakland Daniel Sauter, Prudential 510-339-9290	280/2BA	1-4	\$356,000
4108 Fontaine Ct. East Hill Lore C. Johnson 510-339-8900 La Salle Properties	38A/1 - Ba	2-4	\$349,000
4356 Detroit Ave Rockwood Heights Mike Sessa, Valra Realty Co. 510-451-7317	280/1BA	2-4	\$339,500
4436 Brookdale Ave. Brentwood Park Tom Hemmelt 510-339-8900 La Salle Properties	3 BA/1 BA	2-4/20	\$325,000
728 22nd St El Cerrito Lore C. Johnson 510-339-8900 La Salle Properties	380/1BA	2-4/20	\$320,000
3033 Kingsland Ave Open Sat & Sun Michael Stadler, Gallagher & Lindsey 510-748-1129	38A/1BA	1-4	\$315,000
3919 & 3921 Lyon 2 - Houses, 1 lot Denise Humes, 510-534-4500, Prudential Landmark Real Estate	80/-BA	2-4/20pm	\$309,000
485 - 55th St. Rockridge Don Contha, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	18A/1BA	2-6	\$299,950
2906 Florida Amy Hayashida, Prudential CA Realty, 510-524-2525	280/1BA	130-4/30	\$295,000
3408 Laguna Ave Homes-Link, Homes-Link Team 510-748-5300	2 + 80/1BA	2-4	\$285,000
2257 High St Sage & Nora Mosher, Prudential CA Realty 510-834-2010	380/1BA	2-4	\$288,000
3416 Davis St. Prudential,BHT 4 - lot 2-4/20	4 - lot	2-4/20	\$259,000
4629 Tulip Ave Lafayette Dolore Henson, Prudential 510-339-9290	38A/2BA	2-4/20	\$225,000
968 61st St. Pl. Prudential,Arthur White,510-845-6220	2bd/1	2-4	\$225,000

OAKLAND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
1515 Paralta St Realty World Maritime Assoc. 510-523-9000	5 - 80/2BA		
3201 Boston Ave. Georgia Richardson, Richardson R.L., 510-523-9000	280/1BA	2-4/20	\$449,000
2042 E. 22nd St Oakland Stan Hammond, Wells & Bennett Realtors 510-523-9000	230/2BA	2-4/20	\$449,000
7104 Canyon Oaks Hedgemont Sherry Benninger, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	180/1BA	2-4/20	\$449,000
3821 Magee Ave Oakland Don Dunning, Wells & Bennett Realtors 510-523-9000	280/1BA	2-4/20	\$449,000
1026 Pine St Open Sat & Sun Kathy Hirsch 510-814-4700 Harbor Bay Realty	2 UNITS		
1428 3rd St. Open Sat & Sun Kathy Hirsch 510-814-4700 Harbor Bay Realty	280		

PIEDMONT

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
9 Craig Ave Piedmont Arrian Pettit Turney, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	5 80/3BA		
67 Glen Alpine Dr Piedmont Angela Wei Grubbs, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	1 + 80/1BA	2-4/20	\$449,000
90 Oakmont Ave Piedmont Elizabeth Dickson, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	480/2BA	2-4/20	\$449,000
83 Dudley Piedmont Eugene Walker, 510-339-4700 Coldwell Banker	380/2BA	2-4/20	\$449,000
216 Wildwood Ave Piedmont Constance Rogers, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	4 + 80/2BA	2-4/20	\$449,000
29 Portsmouth Rd Piedmont Angela Wei Grubbs, The GRUBB Co. 510-339-0400	3 + 80/1BA	2-4/20	\$449,000
6 Carisbrook Ln Piedmont Vickie Robinson, Prudential CA Realty 510-526-5143	38A/2BA	2-4/20	\$449,000
701 Paloma Piedmont Nancy Hinkley, Prudential CA Realty 510-526-5143	38A/-Ba	2-4/20	\$449,000

RICHMOND

Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
439 Dimm St. Carla 510-662-8558 Security Pacific RE	3 80/1.5 BA		
3200 Southridge Village Todd Hodson 925-559-2915 Marvin Gardens	3 BA/2.5 BA		
658 22nd St. N & E Mary Lou Loomis 925-559-2915 Marvin Gardens	2 BA - BA		

SAN LEANDRO

Address & Realty	Size	Hours
875 Victoria Av Montclair Better Homes, Jim Schubert	4BD/2BA	2-40 \$160,000
703 Joaquin Ave Low Landlord	2 - BD/1BA	\$1

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561 Garden and Yard Services

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Fast Phone points to the phone number 748-1667.

Reader-Friendly Headings points to the 'HILLS Classifieds' title.

Package Prices points to the 'When You Gotta Sell It Fast and You Have to Have It Now!' section.

Free Stuff points to the 'Classified Deadlines' section.

Deadline Info points to the 'Classified Deadlines' section.

Online Address points to the URL <http://www.hotcoco.com>.

How to Pay points to the 'EASY PAY' section.

The collage includes the following text:

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Alameda Journal, Berkeley Voice, Piedmonter, The Journal, Montclair, Family Fair

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To extend, change or for customer assistance, call 1-800-893-3033
Call Monday-Friday 7am to 7pm

24-hour fax: 925-943-4359; For legal notices or obituary notices, call 748-1666; Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm

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Garage Sale Mania!
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Ad Starting: 10:00am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm, 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:00pm

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EMPLOYMENT 249-255
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FINANCIAL 500-505
HOME & BUSINESS SERVICES 550-590
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Alameda school superintendent at monthly Inforum

ALAMEDA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
Dr. Alan Nishino, superintendent of the Alameda Unified School District, will speak at the Alameda Association of Realtors monthly Inforum meeting 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 13. Dr. Nishino has been in the education field since receiving his B.A. in 1969. He brought 30 years of experience to the Alameda School District when he began his current position in September 2000.

At this Inforum meeting he will talk about his visions and practical plans for the school district, from kindergarten through adult school.

The public is invited to this meeting, which will be held at the Harbor Bay Community Center at 3195 McCartney Rd. in Alameda.

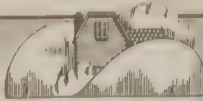
The Inforum is dedicated to helping Realtors stay informed about the real estate market, the community and issues that affect the economy. For more information about the Inforum call Connie Hanna of Harbor Bay Realty at 510-814-4814.

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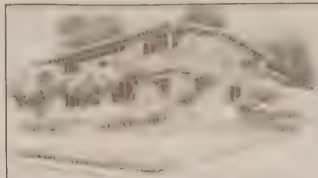
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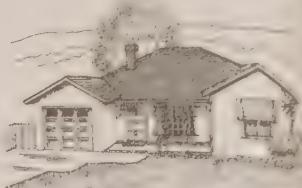
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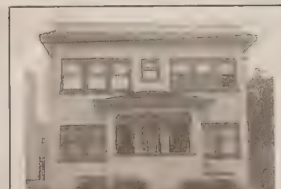
This charming 2 bedroom, 1 bath home in desirable neighborhood above 580 has a sunny living room with brick fireplace, dining area, refinished hardwood floors, single car garage and a private fenced yard.
Nancy Novick, ext. 254

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Frank Hennefer ext. 235

TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL IN OAKLEY!.....\$439,500
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Mary Neuberger 530-4148

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Minutes from Montclair Village with partial Bay and lush canyon views these three lots are a great development opportunity. Please call for more information.
Carol Robbiano ext. 292

TWO MARVELOUS UPSLOPE LOTS.....\$79,000
These two upslope lots are just minutes from Montclair Village. The tranquil setting and lovely Oak trees add to the beauty of this area. Think about a common driveway for two homes. Lots to be sold as a package.
Carol Robbiano ext. 292

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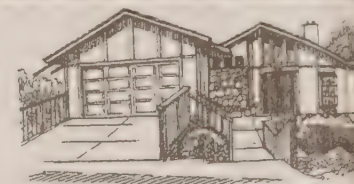
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SPORTS

JV

Friday, February 2, 2001

Section C

Basketball Berkeley press way on top of ACCAL [C2]

Arts 'Nightingale' nests in Berkeley theater [C3]

Hispanic players: Hall of their own



MIKE
MCGREEHAN

Between the Lines

be Hall of Famers Minnie Miñoso, Tony Oliva and Dave Concepcion.

As one peruses the displays, the question that still invariably comes to mind is, "How can the baseball writers who make the Hall of Fame selections miss all this?"

Take the case of Miñoso, the "Cuban Comet," who had his heyday with the White Sox in the 1950s and early '60s, and had cameo comebacks in 1976 and 1980.

"My only guess is that there are people who don't remember him," said author Herb Fagen, who took part in the special opening presentation at the library on Saturday.

Fagen co-authored Miñoso's autobiography, "Just Call Me Minnie: My Six Decades in Baseball." He also wrote "Baby Bull: From Hardball to Hard Time and Back" with Cepeda.

"The White Sox had 17 straight first-division finishes,

which Minnie helped start," recalled Fagen, who was a young fan living in Chicago when Miñoso debuted with the White Sox in 1951 after he was traded from Cleveland. "He is an icon in Chicago. A lot of (the reason for Miñoso's omission from Cooperstown) is maybe people haven't examined his numbers, haven't examined his career."

Many of the problems Latino players face stem from blatant bigotry. Also, language barriers can trip up even the most well-intended journalists.

"The newspapers can make or break you," said Cepeda, a member of the museum board.

Cepeda, a Rookie of the Year with the Giants in 1958 and an MVP with the Cardinals nine years later, waited 25 years after retirement before getting elected to the Hall of Fame by the Veterans' Committee in 1999. His candidacy received strong backing from the Giants. Likewise, Perez received strong backing from the Reds — and particularly from former teammates Joe Morgan and Johnny Bench — before finally getting voted in by the writers on his ninth try last year.

"You need a campaign to remind the people," Cepeda said. "Like the Twins with Tony Oliva."

They should get behind Tony Oliva."

Much of the problem also lies in the selection processes. Fans selected the all-century team. And the Hall of Fame — aside from those players elected by the Veterans' Committee — is another award given by writers.

Unfortunately perhaps, the Hall of Fame is baseball's highest honor. Too many, though, seem to equate entry into the Hall with canonization by the Vatican. Guys with gaudy statistics get in, while many deserving players who perhaps had even greater impact — and more inspiring careers — never come close to election.

Two years ago, a group of Hispanic journalists came up with an alternate all-century team, one made up entirely Latino greats such as Clemente and Aparicio. Perhaps the players should vote their own all-century team as well. Perhaps, too, they should have a greater voice in the Hall of Fame voting. The Hall of Fame is after all, an honor for the players. Maybe it's time to give them more of an opportunity to honor their own.



FORMER MAJOR-LEAGUE BALLPLAYERS Tito Fuentes (left) and Orlando Cepeda talked casually during ceremonies at the Hispanic Heritage Museum on Jan. 27.



SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER, Berkeley's Maura Fitzgerald and Alameda's Sarah Walker fought for the ball during their match in Alameda on Jan. 30. Playing under the lights, Berkeley avenged an earlier home loss to Alameda, winning 3-1.

Berkeley back in hunt

Yellowjackets
Hornets
first league
playoff
ances improve

By Bill Kruissink
SPORTS EDITOR
ALAMEDA — The Berkeley Yellowjackets may not win the war in ACCAL, but after turning back Alameda Hornets 3-1 on Tuesday night, the battle for a North Division berth may be won. The Yellowjackets' comeback from their backs to the postseason (10-5-1 overall, 8-2 in ACCAL) rallied from one goal down to topple the Hornets at Green Field. Playing under the

lights in chilly, breezy conditions, Berkeley tied the match before the end of the half, then scored twice in the second half to ice the victory (literally, since the temperature was frigid).

The win actually left Berkeley all alone in first place in the ACCAL with 24 points. But with just two matches left on its docket and Alameda (7-5-3, 6-1-1, 19 points) with four, the Yellowjackets will slip into second place if the Hornets run the table.

On the other hand, had Berkeley lost to Alameda on Tuesday ... "We knew we had to beat this team. So we came out motivated," said forward Annie Borton, who knocked in the Yellowjackets' first

Prep girls' soccer

Berkeley 3
Alameda 1

and third goals.

"We were very motivated," coach Suzanne Sillett said. "We know we have to win the rest of our games, and we have to hope they tie, to have a chance of winning league."

Berkeley reached this point by losing to Alameda 2-1 in Berkeley several weeks ago and by falling to El Cerrito early in the season. While this was the Hornets' first loss in league, they tied the Richmond Oilers in their league opener.

With so much riding on the game, it's no wonder Alameda's goal, scored in the first four minutes, rocked the Yellowjackets.

"We always start poorly for some reason," Sillett said. "And we talked about preparing from the opening whistle, then we went to sleep. Clearly, it showed."

See SOCCER, Page C2

Cougars still hungry

Albany sees late lead disappear; Samuel scores 16

By Bill Kruissink
SPORTS EDITOR

ALAMEDA — Two clubs hit the floor at St. Joseph Notre Dame looking for that first win in league. Hunger barely describes the gnawing in the belly of the players.

But while both teams had their moments at the table, only one found sustenance.

The St. Joseph Pilots rallied from four points down midway in the fourth period to turn back the Albany Cougars 56-52. A contest that was tied six times and in which the lead changed hands eight, the Pilots went ahead for good with 2:34 remaining on the clock.

"We had to make up for the last game we had (a 56-53 loss to John Sweet on Jan. 26)," Pilot center Christina Blackwood said. "We didn't too well, so everybody had to have the energy to win the game."

Cougar guard Nina Samuel managed to keep her chin up following the difficult loss, the club's eighth in league.

"We're upset because we lost the game, but I'm happy we went out as a team, trying together," she said. "We put teamwork and effort into it



RACING AROUND SEVERAL DEFENDERS, Albany's Cristina Dardalat headed for the basket. Playing in Alameda, the Cougars lost a thriller to the St. Joseph Notre Dame Pilots 56-52.

and we didn't give up on each other. I think that's one of the most important things in this game."

Seven different Cougars put points on the board. In fact, Albany (2-17, 0-8 in the Bay Shore Athletic League) seemed to have a handle on the game in the early minutes of the fourth period. Trailing by two, 44-42, in the first minute of the fourth quarter, Samuel (16 points) tied the game on a pair of free throws, then put her team in the lead when she took a sharp pass from Kelly Chin to the hoop for two points and a 46-44 edge.

With 5:19 on the clock, Samuel struck again, scoring from the left

side for 48-44.

The Pilots (7-14, 1-7) appeared stunned. The team was not controlling the ball and giving the Cougars too many open shots.

Still, for more than a minute, neither team found the bucket. But with 3:37 to go, the Pilots caught a groove. It started with Blackwood sending a pass from Jennifer Fox over the head of a Cougar defender and through the chute for two points. Half a minute later, Blackwood scored off the offensive boards, tying the game for the last time.

With the clock down to 2:34,

See COUGARS, Page C2

'Jackets dig deep for win

Berkeley knocks down 10 3's; Harris hits for 29

By Phil Jensen
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — The Berkeley High School boys' basketball squad on Tuesday showed one big reason why they're still undefeated in Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League play.

Depth.

The Yellowjackets received seven

or more points from five different players as they rallied from a 10-point deficit in the third quarter to defeat El Cerrito 70-63.

"We're not a team that's going to panic at this point of the season. We've played a tough schedule," Berkeley coach Mike Gragnani said. "It was a matter of regrouping. I had a lot of confidence."

Berkeley improved to 15-5 overall and 6-0 in ACCAL action. El Cerrito fell to 7-12 overall and 3-3 in league play.

Prep boys' basketball

Berkeley 70
El Cerrito 63

The Yellowjackets held a 20-12 lead after the first quarter, but El Cerrito rallied to tie the score at 26 by halftime on a 3-pointer by Kenneth James.

The Gauchos opened the third quarter with a 15-5 run to take a 41-31 lead with two minutes, 44 seconds remaining.

Then Berkeley center Jahi Milton scored on an inside basket, starting a 22-7 run that gave the Yellowjackets a 53-48 lead midway through the fourth quarter. Milton scored all eight of his points in the second half.

See BOYS HOOPS, Page C2

Berkeley presses way to top of ACCAL

By Bill Kruissink
SPORTS EDITOR

ALAMEDA — Whistles slowed the flow, one of Berkeley's top players sat out much of the first half and an early scoring error confused things. All this took place against a backdrop of a legendary coach sketching X's and O's verses a former star player, now coaching the opposition.

And, oh yeah, first place was at stake.

Playing without starting forward Robin Roberson for much of the first half, the Berkeley girls (14-5, 5-0 in league) nevertheless muscled their way into sole possession of the first place in the ACCAL, stopping the surging Encinal Jets 71-56.

With five minutes to go in the first half and the score tied 22-22, Berkeley shook off some erratic play to run off 12 unanswered points. The club never looked back, outscoring the Jets (10-9, 5-1) 49-34 over the final 2 1/2 quarters.

Yellowjackets guard Angelita Hutton said: "We started getting the rebounds, pushing it up the court, finishing on the fast break."

Both teams had another problem to contend with: fouls. The two clubs shot a whopping 78 free throws. A staggering 32 whistles were blown in the first half alone. Raushanah Bashir, Encinal's star point guard, caught her third foul less than one minute into the second quarter, her fourth a minute later. She didn't return to the fray until more than three minutes had elapsed in the third period.

Eventually, Bashir joined Berkeley's Sabrina Keys and Gelater Fullwood in exiting with five personal fouls.

"(Losing Bashir) was big," Encinal guard Amber English said. "We really don't have a backup point guard."

"I was shaking my head (over the whistles) the whole game," Berkeley coach Gene Nakamura said. "Some of the calls were unbelievable. But it was consistent both ways."

Not that the fouls had much effect on the final scoreboard. Berkeley went 19-for-35 (54 percent) from the line, while Encinal was 24-for-43 (56 percent).

No, the game really came down to size, which Berkeley has relative to Encinal, and depth on the bench, where the Yellowjackets are loaded.

"We could put more people in and out," Hutton said. "A lot of starters got into foul trouble. That was a lot of fouls."

Both teams scored in runs in the early going. Berkeley jumped out to 9-1 lead on a field goal by Hutton, who posted 15 points on the night, and seven free throws.

Encinal countered by linking several free throws to buckets by English and Jackie Randolph to close 13-10 at the end of the first period.

(The Jets picked up one point on a phantom free throw toward the end of the quarter.)

Despite giving up height at nearly every position, Encinal was getting second and third shots off the offensive boards. Eventually the Jets tied the game 17-17 on Randolph's putback, then took a lead when Noelle Samuels sent two free throws down the chute for 19-17.

"Our coach told us to push it — take it to them," English said. "(She said) we are just as good as them, so stop being scared. So we stepped it up."

Somewhere around here, the Yellowjackets began shuffling players on and off the court, including Roberson, who hit the hardwood in the closing minutes of the first half.

Prep girls' basketball	
Berkeley	71
Encinal	56
Berkeley	58
El Cerrito	53

And when the Jets appeared to take a breather, the Yellowjackets sprang to the attack. A Hutton drive to the hoop put her team back up 24-22. Then Danielle Milburn scored and Roberson nailed a pair of jumpers. After an Encinal turnover, Milburn again popped for two. The run ended with Roberson (16 points) hitting yet another jump shot for 34-22.

Though there was still a lot of basketball to play, the Jets finished the half down by 12 points, 39-27, and were never closer than nine points in the second half.

Post game:

LIKE OLD TIMES — SORT OF ... Nakamura and Rucker go back a ways. In fact, back to the roots of Berkeley's emergence as one of the powerhouses in girls' basketball.

"I was with Nakamura when we were struggling my freshman year," Rucker said. "We had six people. I was there in the '87-'88 season. We were a mediocre team. It took a lot of hard work to build to where it is right now."

"I'm in that situation (at Encinal). We're rebuilding."

Rucker and Nakamura were runners-up at state following the 1989-'90 season, then won it all in 1990-'91, claiming the Division I title by beating Morningside 76-50 on March 16, 1991. Berkeley won the state Division I title again in 1997 and were runners-up last winter.

But it goes back to Rucker and those great Yellowjacket teams of the early '90s.

"I was think back to when Tanda played," Nakamura said. "She was my coach on the floor and how smart my team was when she played."

Remarkably, with all of the super

players who have passed through Nakamura's program, Rucker is perhaps the third to join the coaching ranks — and the first to coach against Nakamura.

"Tanda is one of the first," Nakamura said. "I knew she'd be a good coach; a heady coach."

"It's a special moment — I think for both of us," Rucker added. "It was fun, exciting. I learned a lot from him. I just try to carry it over into my program. I pattern after what he did."

STATS ... Despite missing most of the first half, Roberson paced Berkeley with 16 points. Hutton had 15, Milburn, who made a pair of 3-pointers, 12.

Samuels led all scorers with 19 points. She went 8-for-10 from the line and knocked down five field goals, including one 3-pointer ... English had Encinal's other 3-pointer and wound up with 16 points.

SCHEDULES ... Berkeley plays host to the DeAnza Dons (6-12, 1-4) tonight at Feb. 2 at 7 p.m.

Encinal is at Berkeley Feb. 20, again at 7 p.m., prompting Nakamura to say, "They're a hustling ball club and they did a great job. But just keep an eye on them when we play the next time. They won't score 56."

Berkeley 58, El Cerrito 53

El Cerrito won the first-quarter battle against Berkeley 16-12 but managed to score just three points in the second quarter as the Yellowjackets rallied back for a 58-53 victory.

Robin Roberson led Berkeley (15-5, 6-0 Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League) with 19 points. Tyeisha Brown scored a game-high 25 points to lead the Gauchos (13-7, 4-2 ACCAL).

Phil Jensen contributed to this report.

Cougars

FROM PAGE C1

Jenny Leitz was fouled and made one of two free throws for a 49-48 advantage.

When the Cougars came up empty on the next possession, Blackwood grabbed the board and dished off to Julie Freccero, who drove down the left side to hit a jumper for 51-48.

The small Alameda crowd roared — a win was in site.

Blackwood hit a jumper off a pass from Leitz and was fouled. She completed the three-point play, lifting the Pilots into a 54-48 lead.

Albany, however, had caught its breath. With less than a minute to go, Samuel made a pair of free throws. Seconds later, Chin converted a steal into a layup, cutting the gap to two, 54-52.

As is fitting when two clubs come in with identical records in league, the game wasn't resolved until the final seconds — and then it was when Pilot Lauren Buol was fouled. Scoreless to that point, she knocked down both free throws to put the win in the book.

"I think our team was a little too excited," Samuel said. "I've been losing so much confidence and I don't know how well they can do." "This was the first time one scored. So I think it was a little too excited."

FOUL MOOD ... Caught 20 whistles, Samuel said, in the closing minutes of the game, it was free throws that won the game.

STATS ... The Cougars won four 3's, including Stephanie Wissler (14). Samuel went 4-for-4 on throw line ... Chin said he had seven points in the game.

SCHEDULES ... The Cougars play at John Sweet in Crocker-Hartman at 7 p.m.

Boys hoops

FROM PAGE C1

"In the second half, the lead turned around when we got the ball inside," Gragnani said. "At that point, Muhammed (Nitoto) took the team over."

Nitoto, a 6-foot junior guard who did not play in the first half due to team disciplinary action, scored 10 points in the second half and played well defensively. Another hero for the Yellowjackets was 6-5 senior forward Louis Riordan, who produced 15 of his 18 points in the second half. Riordan produced five 3-pointers in the game, including four in the second half.

"Lou is one of the best I've ever coached," Gragnani said.

Ryan Davis paced the Yellowjackets with 19 points, including 11 in the second half. The Yellowjackets led 49-48 at the end of the first half.

El Cerrito was paced by Harris, who scored a pair of 3's. He scored 19 points in every quarter. James Daniels had 13 points for the Cougars.

"I was proud of the way we played," said El Cerrito coach James Daniels about his team's comeback. "We have to learn how to win this game."

Soccer

FROM PAGE C1

The Hornets' Lisa Hathaway delivered a corner kick to forward Sarah Walker, who headed the ball past keeper Sara Corrigan-Gibbs for 1-0.

After that, the two teams went back and forth, each taking a shot, each coming up short. Two and three defenders would descend on an attacker and a corner kick or throw-in would follow.

It was as if the teams were fencing, searching for a weakness. All-in-all, Alameda was getting the best of Berkeley, winning the battle simply by maintaining its advantage.

"I think we came out really strong," Hathaway said. "We got pumped up in the locker room and were ready. (The goal) was able to keep us going for the next 25 minutes."

Berkeley tied the match with a relatively quiet attack on the left. Momentarily unthreatened by a sweeper or back, Ceci Clark gently brought the ball upfield. She crossed to Bolton, who pushed past three defenders to score against Hornet keeper Allie Musso.

After Bolton's goal, it was a different game. As if their energy had been released, the Yellowjackets began attacking. Esther Schmidt, Maura Fitzgerald, Clark and Mia Arakaki all took shots at the cage.

It says something about Alameda's defense that no shots got through — until, that is, Mariko Holland sent a shot up and over Musso about seven minutes into the second half. Ripped from 20 yards out (and over several players) the ball was in the air quite awhile before looping in for a 2-1 lead.

"That was big," Bolton said. "We were winning it."

And the Yellowjackets did not let up. Holland just missed scoring five minutes later, then Clark missed midway in the half.

"We'd tied it at the end of the first half, so we just turned it on," Borton said. "We were playing our hardest."

With time winding down, Alameda picked up the pace behind strong attacks from Kacie Piro, Walker and Hathaway. But with about eight minutes to go, Borton all but ended the match by kicking the ball into the high right corner of the net, a screaming shot for which there was little defense.

"Going down early kind of shook our confidence," Sillett said. "But coming back with three good goals certainly helps."

"They played better than us today," Alameda coach Stacy Thomas said. "Berkeley had to win today — they had no other choice."

Bolton said: "It's a big pick up. They were undefeated before this. It's up to other teams now."

Wrestlers are true survivors

By Phil Jensen
SPORTS WRITER

ALBANY — Meet the true survivors.

People in the Australian outback have nothing on the wrestling teams from Albany, Berkeley, John Swett and St. Patrick high schools.

One year ago, these teams were participating in leagues such as the Tri-County Athletic League, the East Bay Athletic League and the Superior-California Athletic League. Now they — all four of them — form the entire Bay Shore Athletic League.

The teams opened their three-match dual meet league season Thursday night. Albany shut out John Swett 84-0 and St. Patrick defeated Berkeley 54-15.

BSAL commissioner Phil Tomasini said the wrestling league was formed by the North Coast Section according to supplementary league assignments. For example, Berkeley was included in the league because the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League has no wrestling teams.

The league title will be decided by a combination of the team's dual-meet records and the league tournament, which is scheduled for Feb. 17 at St. Patrick.

"We've been (in a league) on the other side of the hill for 10 or 11 years. The whole month of January and February was competitive," said Albany coach Kermit Bankson, whose team won the TCAL title last season. "In years past, (dual meets) have been a pretty big deal."

Bankson said that his team's approach to this season hasn't changed from past years. After all, there are still weekend tournaments that can be used as preparation for the league and North Coast Section tournaments.

The Albany wrestling team is used to being a nomad. It has competed in a former auto shop at the school and at the Alameda Naval Air Station since the school's gymnasium was torn down in 1997 as part of a seismic retrofitting project.

In fact, Albany is hosting the Albany Invitational Tournament Saturday at Alameda Point (formerly the Alameda Naval Air Station). The 23-team tournament includes defending tourney champion Carson of Carson City, Nev., San Leandro and Piner-Santa Rosa.

Albany might have one of its best teams ever. The Cougars won the Freedom dual match tournament last month and has six wrestlers with 15 or more victories this season.

On Thursday, Albany won every match by pin or forfeit. The Cougars' Joey Seltzer, Yaw Yiadom, Tyson Griffin, Newton Casemiro, Karl Moore, Daniel Henderson and Mike Estes pinned their opponents.

John Swett is building its program, which has only been in existence for four years. Head coach Sid Jensen said that the BSAL dual-meet situation is actually an improvement for his teams from past seasons in the Superior California Athletic League.

"SCAL had a dual tournament, then a league tournament," Jensen said. "It was hard to keep interest. Now, they have someone to wrestle."

John Swett has only 11 wrestlers. Numbers have also been a problem for Berkeley, which has 20 wrestlers and none over 160 pounds.

The Yellowjackets, which had a state-placer in Marcus Glass last season, have some quality, however. Parker Robinson, a 130-pounder, has won two tournament titles this season, and 152-pounder Michael Applebury won his division at the Clay-

ton Valley Tournament. Both Robinson and 160-pounder Owen Gould won their matches Thursday against St. Patrick.

Riordan knows his role

By Dean Rosener
CORRESPONDENT

What's it like to be part of a successful, 11-player hoop rotation?

Louis Riordan puts his Berkeley High team first. Six-foot-five and a fine 3-point shooter, the senior knows he could play 25 minutes a game for many East Bay schools. But then, so could most of the other Yellowjackets, who have stormed out to an ACCAL-leading start.

Against El Cerrito on Tuesday, Riordan scored 18 points, converting five 3-pointers.

"Well, I'm never winded," Riordan said. "I don't play long enough. But that's fine. I know we have so much talent here, we have to rotate."

Riordan frankly admits his play does not warrant 25 minutes on this team.

"I need to improve my upper-body strength," said the slender forward.

"Believe it or not, I was even thinner my first two years."

Those two seasons have left Berkeley on a mission. They exited the NCS playoffs too early in their view, losing to Bishop O'Dowd in the second round in 1999 and to Pittsburg in the first round in 2000.

"We want to go much deeper this year," Riordan said. "We feel we can play with anyone."

The University of California at San Diego, a Division II school, has expressed interest in having Riordan play for them.

"Right now, I see myself as an outside player who can get inside baskets. But if my frame fills out, I'll be a more balanced, inside-outside player. I'm lifting weights to reach that long-term goal."

For the short term, he's content to be one more role player on a talented — and unselfish — team.

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Arts

'Heels' goes for low comedy

Freddie Prinze Jr./Monica Potter vehicle makes a crass landing

By Mary F. Pols
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The good news about "Head Over Heels" is that, despite appearances, it is not a new sitcom. How it even made it to theaters in the first place is a puzzle, but of course, one could say that about most productions involving Freddie Prinze Jr. It is, however, a landmark of sorts, in that, to my knowledge, it is the first time a chick flick has blatantly borrowed from the bathroom humor of the Adam Sandler family of film.

New Yorkers Jim Winston (Prinze) and his love interest, Amanda Pierce (Monica Potter), first encounter each other when the Great Dane he is walking bounds up to her,

REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "Head Over Heels"
■ **STARRING:** Monica Potter, Freddie Prinze Jr., Shalom Harlow, Ivana Milicevic
■ **RATING:** PG-13 (sexual content, crude humor and language)
■ **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 28 minutes
■ **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters
■ **GRADE:** D

knocks her over and begins humping her in a most aggressive and unpleasantly vivid fashion. God help us if this is what "meet cute" has become.

Amanda, who has the nice girlie profession of restoring art at the Metropolitan Museum, is visiting Jim's Upper East Side neighbor-



MONICA POTTER and Freddie Prinze Jr. have more than their share of misunderstandings in "Head Over Heels."

hood because she's looking for a new apartment, having just caught

See HEELS, Page C5

Fun farce 'Bride' playing at CCCT

Contra Costa Civic Theatre presents "There Goes the Bride," the hilarious farce by Ray Cooney and John Chapman, directed by Michael Ray Wisley. The show plays week-ends, through Feb. 24.

On his daughter's wedding day, Timothy Westerby (Mark Manske) gets a bump on the head.

Suddenly the flapper he's dreamed up for an advertising campaign takes on a life of her own, causing confusion and consternation all around.

Also seen in this production are Colleen Marie Moffat as the flapper Polly Perkins; Susan Warwick as Ursula Westerby, mother of the bride who strives to maintain a stiffer upper lip; Kelly Graham as Judy, the bride; David Lee and Pat Parker as Ursula's parents; Richard Rylan as Bill Shorter, Timothy's bemused business partner; and Sal Russo as Charles Babcock, the groom's beleaguered father.

Performances are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, with 2 p.m. Sunday matinees Feb. 4 and 11, at the theater, 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. Tickets are \$10 general; \$6 for youths 16 and under.

Call 510-624-09132 for reservations.



COLLEEN MARIE Moffat is Polly Perkins, Richard Ryan (standing) is Bill Shorter and Mark Manske is Timothy Westerby in "There Goes the Bride," at Contra Costa Civic Theatre.

'Nightingale' nests in Berkeley theater

A trio of plays peeking over the February horizon show just how richly diverse we are when it comes to provocative theater fare. Where else would you find in a single month on stages within a dozen blocks or so — all in Berkeley — such tantalizing offerings as:

"Nightingale," a darkly comic, three-character melodrama, something like Kafka meets "Cinderella," that publicist Victor Libet says "might leave you howling at the moon."

"Shrew You!" — a premiere adaptation of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew" in which two productions occur simultaneously — has been described by me-



JACK TUCKER

Community theater

dia contact Genevieve Turcotte as "a whip-cracking farce and a sexually charged queer drama," that flips the Bard on his head in a delightful and provocative collision of theatrical worlds.

"Someone Who'll Watch Over Me," the story of three men imprisoned in Lebanon — an Irishman, an Englishman and an American — who celebrate the humanity they find in themselves, in director

Patrick Dooley's words, "as they confront their deepest fears in an insane and helpless situation."

DEMONS WITH DINNER: "Nightingale," written and directed by Gary Graves, is the story of two sisters and a man — a contemporary retelling of the Greek myth of Philomela, Procne and Tereus — and how they work out their demons in the course of a family dinner.

In the cast: Louis Parnell, Rica Anderson and Jan Zvaifler. Lauren Kaplan is doing the costumes. Gregory Scharpen is in charge of sound design.

This is a new play from Central Works Theater Ensemble which develops original work through in-

tensive, collaborative workshops. Since 1991, Central Works has presented 14 productions, including one American premiere and seven originals.

"Nightingale" plays at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and Sundays at 5 p.m. from Feb. 9 through March 4 at LaVal's Subterranean, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. Two early curtains at 5 p.m. are scheduled for Feb. 24 and March 3.

Tickets are on a \$8-\$14 sliding scale. Pay what you can for the two early Saturday shows. Call 510-558-1381.

THE BARD UPENDED: "Shrew You!" is a production of the UC

See TUCKER, Page C5

ARTS BEAT

Gallery to hold annual clearance sale

ALBANY — The Albany Arts Gallery will hold its annual seconds and clearance sale through Saturday at the gallery.

Items include wood pieces, blown glass, pottery, photography and jewelry by John Doyen, Jaime Guerrero, Susan Paul, Michael Williams and Miles Williams.

The gallery is at 1251 Solano Ave., and it is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays.

For details, call 510-526-9558.

Cellist to perform at Crowden School

BERKELEY — Cellist Gianna Abondolo will perform music for cello, piano and an array of African and Indian drums, at 4 p.m. Feb. 4, as part of the Sundays at Four chamber music series at Crowden School.

There will be a pre-concert discussion at 3:15 p.m.

Abondolo will be accompanied by pianist Robert Schwartz and other guest artists. She will play two Northern California premieres and works for cello by composers who include Poulenc, Britten and Falla.

Abondolo, a former member of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, is on the faculties of UC Berkeley and Mills College in Oakland.

Admission is \$10 general and free for those younger than 18.

Crowden School, at 1475 Rose St., combines chamber music training with a full academic curriculum for grades four through nine.

For more information, call 510-559-6910.

Opera Piccola to stage aromatic African tale

RICHMOND — In honor of Black History Month in February, the Richmond Public Library will present a performance for children by Opera Pic-

cola at 3:45 p.m. Feb. 9.

The troupe will perform "The Stolen Aroma," a folk tale from North Africa.

Opera Piccola is a group of multiethnic performers that presents original and traditional operas that include drama, music, song, dance and storytelling. Audience members of all ages are spontaneously cast in the production.

The show, sponsored by the Friends of the Richmond Public Library, will be in the Main Children's Room of the library, 325 Civic Center Plaza. The building is wheelchair accessible.

For information, call 510-620-6557.

Vocalist, jazz trio to play at Jazzschool

BERKELEY — Vocalist Ann Dyer will perform today at the Jazzschool/La Note Restaurant, 2377 Shattuck Ave.

Accompanying Dyer will be John Shifflett on bass, Jason Lewis on drums and Deepak Ram on bansuri, a bamboo instrument, and tabla, small drums played with the hands. The music will include a wide range of new pieces, standards and Hindustani religious songs.

On Feb. 4, Jeff Chambers and the J2W Project, whose style is jazz fusion, will perform "The '70s Resurrected." Besides Chambers, who plays bass, members of J2W are guitarist Jeff Massanari and drummer Wally Schanley.

All shows begin at 4:30 p.m. Seating is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis, and reservations are recommended.

Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors, and \$6 for Jazzschool students and children under 13.

Call 510-845-5373.

EVENTS

REI Berkeley — through Feb. 22. A series of lectures on hikes and outdoor equipment.

"Great Mt. Diablo Day Hikes," Feb. 8, 7 p.m. A slide presentation by Ken Lavin of Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association on his favorite walks and day hikes in Mt. Diablo State Park.

"Climbing Mt. Shasta," Feb. 15, 7 p.m. A slide presentation by Tim Keating of Sierra Wilderness Seminars on climbing and skiing this peak.

"Rivers of the World," Feb. 22, 7 p.m. Author Pamela Michael gives a slide presentation of nearly 100 of the world's great rivers.

Free unless otherwise noted. 1338 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley. (510) 527-4140

Grand Lake Oakland Certified Farmers Market — Ongoing. A chance to buy local organic produce and baked goods.

Free. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. MacArthur Boulevard and Grand Avenue, Oakland. (415) 456-FARM or (800) 897-FARM

Jack London Square Farmers Market — Ongoing. A chance to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, cut flowers, baked goods, and more.

Free. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jack London Square, foot of Broadway, Oakland. (510) 814-6000 or www.jacklondonsquare.com

Oakland Rod, Custom And Motorcycle Show — Feb. 9 through Feb. 11. Featuring the world's newest hot rods, wild customs, and one-of-a-kind boats, motorcycles and trucks.

\$14 general; free children under age 5. Friday, noon to 10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Oakland Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way at Interstate Highway 880 and Hegenberger Road, Oakland. (209) 744-8090 or www.motorsportshows.com

"Outgrowing California: where is the boom taking us?" — Feb. 8 through Feb. 10. A California Studies Conference examining the challenges resulting from projections of enormous growth in the state in the next 20 years. Leaders in politics, planning, academics and the arts will participate.

\$40 general; \$25 seniors; \$15 students. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. (888) OAK-MUSE or www.museumca.org (510) 261-0506

Alameda Point Antiques And Collectibles Faire — Feb. 4, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Featuring items 20 years or older with no reproductions.

\$3 general. Former Alameda Naval Air Station, Main Street and Atlantic Avenue, Alameda. (510) 869-5428 or www.anticsesbybay.com

"White Elephant Preview Sale" — Feb. 4, noon to 5 p.m. This preview of the Oakland Museum's huge annual "White Elephant Sale" offers bargain hunters first chance at the merchandise.

\$20. WES Warehouse, 333 Lancaster St., Oakland. (888) OAK-MUSE or www.museumca.org

Golden Gate Geographic Society Travel Film Series —

"Route 66: A Sentimental Journey!" Charles Hartman presents his film of a familiar highway, starting from Chicago and ending at Santa Monica.

Feb. 10, 2 p.m.: Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (800) 247-GGGS.

Oakland A's Fanfest 2001 — Feb. 10, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. A's manager Art Howe along with A's players, coaches, management and broadcasters will be on hand for autograph sessions, photos, question and answer sessions, and more.

\$5 general; \$3 children age 14 and under. Network Associates Coliseum, Coliseum Way at Interstate Highway 880 and Hegenberger Road, Oakland. (510) 762-2277 or (510) 430-8020 ext. 2819.

Premiere Of Film "Boycott" — Feb. 11, 3 p.m. A performance by the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir under the direction of Terrence Kelly followed by the screening of the HBO film "Boycott" about the historic events following Rosa Parks' refusal to move the back of a bus that ignited the civil rights movement.

Call for free ticket information. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. (510) 465-6400 or www.sfsstation.com

A.C.C.I. Gallery —

"My Bulgaria," through Feb. 28. A cultural exhibit of children's art from Bulgaria.

"Naked," through Feb. 17. The Annual State Art Competition juried by Pasha Rafat.

Free. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 843-2527.

Alice Arts Center —

"Zonguldak," Feb. 2 through Feb. 28. An exhibit of works by Julia Kay, Frost Newton and Patrick O'K'lesley.

Free. On view 24 hours daily in the front windows. 1428 Alice St., Oakland. (510) 238-4948.

See EVENTS, Page C5

BILL MANN
Media Notes

North of the border

DOVER — We have a free in the U.S., but it's amazing how disarming — what doesn't get reported widely. A few examples: —Swarthy Socialists Seize Canada has had a socialist government since the NDP actually won elections and runs government — and life as we know it about manages to soldier on. —About 20 years ago, in fact, the look over Manitoba's government, socialized car insurance, it's no fault, and everyone in province paid \$49 for coverage. —The words "bureaucrat" and "bureaucracy" are not obscenities up there.

Probably haven't read that NDP now runs British Columbia government; it's been in several times before. But something even more interesting I bet you haven't seen in press here: British Columbia's premier, Ujjal Dasangh, is the premier or governor in North America of East Indian heritage. A politician whose family comes from India. Think the U.S. is ready for that?

Drunk Russians on the page? Last weekend, three members of the Russian embassy in Ottawa were arrested in a drunk-driving incident. Of course, invoked diplomatic immunity. In a possibly related item, about an hour away, in Montreal, some \$1.4 million in was stolen the day before the Seagram's warehouse in Montreal. Coincidence? I think not.

Flipping around the B.C. news during the Super Bowl, I saw two telecasts with strikingly different messages. PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) in "Lab Animals Never Have a Nice Day," the bumper car you usually see next to (PETA) surprised everyone by asking over \$700,000 for a Super Bowl commercial (OK, spot) with cows mooing that using fur was an utterly unthinkable idea.

Then switched over on B.C. cable to NPTV an entire cable network set aside for indigenous people (i.e., eskimos). On the Native People's TV Network, an eskimo with a big hunting knife was shown in great detail how to skin a muskoxen a caribou. Not typical TV fare. Maybe NPTV is for non-PETA TV.

Few things are more tiresome than hearing fellow Americans tell me that a mess Canada's social-medical system is. While I'm visiting here, a major study released saying that Canada's health-care "crisis" is overrated, that Canadians have been "cheated" by doctors' fees for surgery, etc.

I turned in a radio broadcast on the CBC, expecting to hear about the report as a white-hot story. But in the 30 minutes of the report, one Canadian said he or she was unhappy with that country's government-run single-payer health-care system. Not one.

The following day, we had lunch with a friend in Victoria and his 70-year-old wife, a woman who has Parkinson's disease who recently broke her hip. My lady told us her drugs cost \$100 Canadian (not a misprint) for three months, and that she was happy with the B.C. government's medical program. This is a heavy use of medical services. Bottom line: Our system is "broken." Canada's isn't. U.S. media have done a terrific job of reporting — or even worse, the truth about — this big

Washington, Seattle, I again had pleasure of tuning in the U.S.'s radio talk-show host, Dave Ross, on Seattle's KIRO (710 AM). I may have heard Ross's funny banter here on the CBS Radio Network — KCBS airs Ross on the radio at 2:30. Ross told Seattle listeners this week that U.S. should normalize relations with Cuba and allow Americans to travel there. "If more Americans knew how bad it is there, they'd be anti-Communists," the all-time Ross said. Ross then wryly said an idea for a new Disneyland park — "Commiland."

BILL MANN, Page C5

FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Titles and showtimes subject to change
Call theaters for information
Compiled by Hollywood.com

★Wheelchair Accessible

Showtimes for Friday, February 2

Alameda County

Chabot Space & Science Center Tien Ming-Dun ★
1000 Skyway Blvd., Danville 94519
• **Antarctica** (NR) 11:30 a.m., 3:30, 7:30 Showtimes subject to change
• **Solar Max** (NR) 8:30 Showtimes subject to change
• **To Be an Astronaut** (NR) 10:30 a.m., 1:00 Showtimes subject to change

Act I & II

2129 Center Street, Berkeley 94704
• **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 5:30, 7:00, 9:30-9:40

Albany Twin

1115 Soland Avenue, Albany 94706
• **Malena** (R) 8:30, 8:45
• **State and Main** (R) 6:45, 9:00

California Theatres

2113 Kirtland Street, Berkeley 94704
• **Chocolat** (PG-13) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
• **The Gift** (R) 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 9:40
• **Shadow of the Vampire** (R) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

Century 25 Union City Union Landing★

3100 Union Landing Road, Union City 94585
• **Cast Away** (PG-13) 12:10, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00
• **Chocolat** (PG-13) 12:15, 2:45, 5:25, 7:55, 10:25
• **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 11:50 a.m., 12:45, 2:30, 3:30, 5:10, 6:15, 7:50, 9:15, 10:40, midnight
• **Double Take** (PG-13) 11:45 a.m., 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:25, 10:35

• **The Emperor's New Groove** (G) 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 5:00
• **The Gift** (R) noon, 2:25, 5:05, 7:40, 10:10
• **Head Over Heels** (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 1:50, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45
• **Left Behind: The Movie** (PG-13) 11:40 a.m., 2:15, 4:30, 6:55, 9:15, 11:40
• **Miss Congeniality** (PG-13) 11:50 a.m., 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:30

• **The Pledge** (R) 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05
• **Save the Last Dance** (PG-13) 11:35 a.m., 12:50, 2:15, 3:25, 5:50, 6:15, 7:45, 9:00, 10:30, 11:45
• **Shadow of the Vampire** (R) 11:30 a.m., 1:40, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:25

• **Snatch** (R) 11:35 a.m., 12:45, 2:00, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45, 7:00, 8:15, 9:30, 10:45, midnight
• **Sugar and Spice** (PG-13) 11:40 a.m., 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:15, 10:25

• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 11:35, 3:15, 6:45, 10:05
• **Traffic** (R) 11:40 a.m., 12:45, 2:40, 4:00, 5:45, 7:15, 8:40, 10:10, 11:35
• **Valentine** (R) 11:45 a.m., 12:40, 1:55, 3:05, 4:20, 5:20, 6:35, 7:45, 8:50, 10:15, 11:50

• **Vertical Limit** (PG-13) 7:05, 10:05
• **The Wedding Planner** (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 12:40, 2:00, 3:10, 4:30, 5:50, 7:00, 8:20, 9:30, 10:45, 12:05 a.m.
• **What Women Want** (PG-13) 12:35, 3:35, 6:45, 9:40

Chabot Cinema

2853 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley 94545
• **Save the Last Dance** (PG-13) 12:15, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Elmwood

2958 College Avenue, Berkeley 94704
• **The Emperor's New Groove** 5:15
• **The Emperor's New Groove** 5:15
• **Miss Congeniality** (PG-13) 7:15, 9:20
• **Requirement for a Dream** (NR) 5:30, 9:30
• **What Women Want** (PG-13) 8:45, 9:15

Fine Arts Cinema - Berkeley★

2451 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley 94811-43
• **Tampopo** (NR) 7:30
• **When Pity Fly** (NR) 9:40

Grand Lake Theater

3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland 94612
• **Chocolat** (PG-13) 1:00, 4:00, 7:15, 9:35
• **Miss Congeniality** (PG-13) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
• **Sugar and Spice** (PG-13) 12:30, 2:25, 4:20, 6:15, 8:15, 10:10
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 2:45, 8:15
• **Traffic** (R) noon, 3:30, 7:00

Jack London Cinema★

100 Washington Street, Oakland 94612-1320
• **Double Take** (PG-13) 11:00 a.m., 1:10, 3:30, 5:55, 8:15, 10:40
• **The Emperor's New Groove** (G) 11:05 a.m., 1:15, 3:25, 5:35

• **Finding Forrester** (PG-13) noon, 4:00, 7:15, 10:10
• **Head Over Heels** (PG-13) 11:10 a.m., 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:05, 10:20
• **The Pledge** (R) 7:50, 10:45
• **Save the Last Dance** (PG-13) 11:25 a.m., 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:30

• **Snatch** (R) 1:35 a.m., 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
• **Traffic** (R) 12:15, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15
• **Valentine** (R) 11:20 a.m., 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 9:55
• **The Wedding Planner** (PG-13) 11:20 a.m., 1:55, 4:30, 7:10, 10:15

Mann Festival 9 Cinemas Hayward★

1901 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 94541
• **Chocolat** (PG-13) 12:40, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40
• **Double Take** (PG-13) noon, 2:30, 5:30, 8:10, 10:20
• **The Emperor's New Groove** (G) 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00
• **Finding Forrester** (PG-13) 1:15, 4:10, 7:20, 10:25
• **The Gift** (R) 1:45, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00
• **The Pledge** (R) 1:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:30
• **Save the Last Dance** (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10
• **Snatch** (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 7:00, 10:00
• **The Wedding Planner** (PG-13) 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

NAZ 8★

39400 Argonaut Way, Fremont 94538
• **Aashli** (NR) 5:00, 9:00
• **Chandramukhi** (NR) 5:00, 9:00
• **Kashmiri** (NR) 5:00, 9:00, 11:00
• **Kuch Kuch Haseeni** (NR) 5:00, 7:00, 11:00
• **Mirala** (NR) 9:00
• **Zubeeda** (NR) 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00

Oaks Theater★

1875 Solano Avenue, Berkeley 94706
• **Snatch** (R) 7:00, 8:15
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 7:30

Piedmont Theatre

4186 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland 94612
• **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
• **Shadow of the Vampire** (R) 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
• **State and Main** (R) 4:00, 6:45, 9:15

Shattuck Cinemas★

2230 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley 94704
• **Before Night Falls** (R) 2:05, 5:10, 8:15
• **Best in Show** (PG-13) 4:00, 9:35
• **Billy Elliot** (R) 1:20, 3:50, 6:30, 9:00
• **Finding Forrester** (PG-13) 12:50, 3:45, 6:40, 9:25
• **Head Over Heels** (PG-13) 1:00, 3:10, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
• **The House of Mirth** (PG-13) 2:00, 5:05, 8:10
• **O Brother, Where Art Thou?** (PG-13) 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
• **The Pledge** (R) 1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 9:45
• **The Wedding Planner** (PG-13) 2:10, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30
• **Yi Yi (A One and a Two)** (NR) 12:45, 8:00
• **You Can Count on Me** (R) 1:45, 4:10, 6:50, 9:15

UA Berkeley 7

2274 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley 94704
• **Cast Away** (PG-13) 12:15, 3:30, 7:05, 10:15
• **Double Take** (PG-13) 12:20, 5:50, 10:30, 10:00
• **The Invisible Circus** (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00, 10:45
• **Save the Last Dance** (PG-13) 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 7:45, 10:20

• **Sugar and Spice** (PG-13) 12:30, 2:35, 5:00, 7:15, 9:45
• **Traffic** (R) 12:10, 3:10, 7:00, 10:30
• **Valentine** (R) noon, 2:35, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10

UA Emeryville 10★

6300 Christie Avenue, Emeryville 94607
• **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:15, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55, 12:30 a.m.
• **Double Take** (PG-13) 10:45 a.m., 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10, 12:20 a.m.

• **Head Over Heels** (PG-13) 10:55 a.m., 1:10, 3:30, 5:40, 8:10, 10:20, 12:30 a.m.
• **The Pledge** (R) 11:00 a.m., 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 10:45
• **Save the Last Dance** (PG-13) 10:40 a.m., 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50, 12:25 a.m.

• **Snatch** (R) 10:50 a.m., 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:50, 12:30 a.m.
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40

• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40

• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40

• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40

• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40

• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40

• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40

• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40

• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40

• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 10:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:40

UA Hayward 6★

24800 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward 94541
• **Head Over Heels** (PG-13) 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 7:45, 9:30
• **Miss Congeniality** (PG-13) 12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
• **Shadow of the Vampire** (R) 12:45, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:00
• **Sugar and Spice** (PG-13) 12:20, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 9:45
• **Traffic** (R) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00
• **Valentine** (R) 12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10

UC Theatre★

2035 University Avenue, Berkeley 94704
• **Chunhyang** (R) 4:00, 7:00, 9:30

Central Contra Costa

Crow Canyon 6★

2525 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, San Ramon 94583
• **Cast Away** (PG-13) 1:00, 4:30, 7:00, 10:00
• **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:25, 7:10, 9:45
• **Finding Forrester** (PG-13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15
• **Head Over Heels** (PG-13) 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:30, 9:40
• **O Brother, Where Art Thou?** (PG-13) noon, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10
• **The Pledge** (R) 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 9:50

Festival Walnut Creek★

1450 North California Blvd., Walnut Creek 94594
• **Finding Forrester** (PG-13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:20, 10:20
• **The Gift** (R) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 8:00, 10:25
• **Shadow of the Vampire** (R) 2:30, 7:40
• **Snatch** (R) 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:55, 7:30, 10:00
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 1:40, 9:50
• **Traffic** (R) noon, 3:20, 7:00, 10:10

Orinda Theater★

Orinda Theater Square, Orinda 94569
• **Cast Away** (PG-13) 8:00, 9:00
• **Chocolat** (PG-13) 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
• **Shadow of the Vampire** (R) 4:00, 6:15, 8:15, 10:00

Park Theater

3519 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette 94509
• **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 7:00, 9:30

Rheem All-Stadium 4★

350 Park Street, Menlo Park 94025
• **Miss Congeniality** (PG-13) 5:00, 7:35, 9:45
• **The Pledge** (R) 4:30, 7:25, 9:55
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 4:00, 7:00, 9:50
• **Traffic** (R) 4:15, 7:15, 10:00

West Contra Costa

Century 10 Pinole★

1691 Fitzgerald Drive, Pinole 94564
• **Cast Away** (PG-13) 1:15, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
• **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 11:40 a.m., 2:15, 4:55, 7:35, 10:15
• **Double Take** (PG-13) 11:35 a.m., 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:40
• **Head Over Heels** (PG-13) 11:30 a.m., 1:40, 3:50, 5:55, 8:05, 10:25

• **Save the Last Dance** (PG-13) 11:55 a.m., 2:30, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20
• **Shadow of the Vampire** (R) 11:30 a.m., 1:35, 3:40, 5:45, 7:55, 10:05
• **Sugar and Spice** (PG-13) 11:45 a.m., 1:45, 3:55, 6:00, 8:10, 10:05

• **Traffic** (R) 12:55, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
• **Valentine** (R) noon, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
• **The Wedding Planner** (PG-13) 11:50 a.m., 2:25, 4:50, 7:30, 9:50

San Francisco

AMC 1000 Van Ness ★
1000 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco 94102-4242
• **Double Take** (PG-13) 7:15, 9:40
• **The Emperor's New Groove** (G) 12:00, 5:00
• **The Family Man** (PG-13) 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
• **Finding Forrester** (PG-13) 12:55, 4:15, 7:20, 10:30
• **The Gift** (R) 12:45, 4:50, 7:55, 11:00
• **Head Over Heels** (PG-13) 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 8:00, 10:20, 12:15 a.m.

• **Max** (PG-13) (PG-13) 12:40, 7:35
• **The Pledge** (R) 1:25, 4:40, 7:45, 10:45
• **Shadow of the Vampire** (R) 1:15, 5:15, 7:50, 10:15
• **Snatch** (R) 1:30, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50, 12:10 a.m.
• **Sugar and Spice** (PG-13) 1:00, 5:10, 7:40, 9:55
• **Thirteen Days** (PG-13) 12:35, 4:05, 7:30, 10:55
• **Traffic** (R) 12:30, 4:00, 7:25, 10:50

• **The Wedding Planner** (PG-13) 1:05, 2:30, 4:25, 5:20, 7:00, 8:35, 9:35, 10:40, 12:05 a.m.
• **What Women Want** (PG-13) 1:10, 4:10, 7:05, 10:05, 12:10 a.m.

AMC Kabuki 8★

1881 Post Street, San Francisco 94102-4242
• **Cast Away** (PG-13) 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30
• **Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon** (PG-13) 1:00, 4:10, 7:30, 10:45
• **The Gift** (R) 1:40, 4:40, 7:25, 10:25
• **Head Over Heels** (PG-13) 1:45, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20
• **Save the Last Dance** (PG-13) 1:20, 4:45, 7:50, 10:50
• **Sugar and Spice** (PG-13) 2:00, 4:35, 7:30, 10:45
• **Valentine** (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
• **The Wedding Planner** (PG-13) 1:10, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15

Bridge★

3010 Elgin Blvd., San Francisco 94103-0810
• **O Brother, Where Art Thou?** (PG-13) 11:50 a.m., 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45

Castro Theatre★

Castro Street & Market Streets, San Francisco 94102-6120
• **Big Deal on Madonna Street** (NR) 1:00
• **The Poor and the Noble** (NR) 7:00

Clay

2251 Filmore Street, San Francisco 94103-0810
• **Chunhyang** (R) 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

Embarcadero★

1 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco 94103-0810
• **The House of Mirth** (PG-13) 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 9:50
• **Malena** (R) 12:45, 3:45, 7:00, 9:40
• **Quills** (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00
• **State and Main** (R) noon, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15
• **You Can Count on Me</**

Reviews

FROM PAGE C4

for the martial-arts sequences. Di-
g Lee's Chinese-language film is
very heavily, the most exhilarating
year. It has all the elements of
— it's an adventure film, with two
— one passionate and one more
— pushing the action across gorgeous
— The martial arts scenes are
— by the master himself, Yuen
— and they will make your mouth
— a pair of women warriors
— Woo, Zhang Ziyi who make Buffy
— Slayer seem like a beginner. —
— (R) martial arts violence and some
— 1 hour, 59 minutes. A

"WORLDWIDE": This latest IMAX release
is minutes of unabashed, and often
— of the skull-cracking, eyeball-straining
— of the IMAX format with 3-D com-
— Very clever and thrilling,
— comes near the end when
— into the living room belonging
— the most beloved four-fingered
— characters, the Simpsons. — A.O.
— 101 55 minutes. B+

"THE TAKE": Two talented comics
— Griffin and Orlando Jones) are
— in this nearly incomprehensible
— that takes numerous twists into
— Jones plays an investment
— who is framed for a murder. Griffin
— is a fast-talking petty thief who hits
— with a series of puns. There's no logic
— in this shoddy filmmaking. — C. Vognar,
— (violence, language, drugs) 1 hour,
— 101 55 minutes. F

"EMPEROR'S NEW GROOVE": The
— of bad-lady movie casts David
— as the voice of spoiled, callous Em-
— and John Goodman as the vil-
— and congenial king, Pachia.
— into a four-footed critter in an as-
— sion attempt goes awry, the tem-
— Kuzoo must depend upon the
— peasant to regain his rightful
— throne. The miscreants — Kuzoo's
— (and "Tara" (Eartha Kitt), and cheery
— assistant Knott (Patrick Warbur-
—) — as many laughs with their
— messes. The setting is entirely in-
— the irrelevant laughs aren't. — V
— (R) 1 hour, 18 minutes. A-

"FAMILY MAN": Nicolas Cage plays a
— a large businessman who gets a
 — of what his life would have been
 — if he married his college sweetheart
 — . Watching Cage register the
 — of going from Wall Street to a tire
 — in suburban New Jersey, with two
 — and a mortgage, is very good fun.
 — The film is an excellent comic moments,
 — it's a joy to watch. But the movie
 — is turning up on some major plot flaws,
 — as does the charming family. Cage's
 — actor eventually falls in love with actu-
 — ally. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some sensu-
 — al language) 2 hours, 10 minutes.

"THE FORESTER": Derivative to say
 — least, borrowing heavily from director
 — Vin Sant's own "Good Will Hunting"
 — as "Scent of a Woman" and "Field
 — of Dreams." But Sean Connery gives a
 — creative, lively performance as a
 — writer/director. The film is a
 — playing his protégé from a
 — of a young project, is so good, you
 — believe he's an acting novice. Be-
 — cause two, a formulaic movie but
 — the story becomes worth seeing. — M.
 — (PG-13: brief strong language and
 — sexual references) 2 hours, 16 min-
 — utes. B

"THE WASHINGTON": A well-meant
 — but pretentious coming-of-age
 — that tries to bring to mind William
 — a slice-of-life writing style, but
 — due to minimal talent. Writer/director
 — Gordon Green sets the story
 — in the head 13-year-old boy in
 — a region in the rural South. An
 — cast of characters are introduced,
 — but he is so notoriously self-conscious
 — that he is, not to mention the
 — stars, never comes alive. — G. Lovell,
 — 1 hour, 32 minutes. C

"THE SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE": A strange,
 — occasionally ravishing movie about
 — the making of the first cinematic vampire film,
 — F.W. Murnau's silent hit, "Nosferatu." Don't
 — go expecting, however, a literal "making-of"
 — film. Director E. Elias Merhige has a little fun
 — with the story, making the "Nosferatu" star
 — (played well by Willem Dafoe) a real vam-
 — pire. "Shadow of the Vampire" tries, with
 — mixed success, to be scary, funny and pro-
 — found. It is, for one thing, an extended es-
 — say, alternately grating and provocative, on
 — the metaphysics of moviemaking. — A.O.
 — Scott. (R: brief nudity, some drug use and
 — the consumption of large quantities of

ence Davies' adaptation of Edith Wharton's
 — novel on the high cost of high society in
 — New York City during the turn of the century
 — retains the author's fast dialogue, and is
 — filled with good performances. Gillian An-
 — derson (of TV's "The X-Files") is command-
 — ing as Lily Bart, who is being courted by
 — many gentlemen callers. Anderson's perfor-
 — mance is deft and filled with inner turmoil.
 — Unfortunately, the film occasionally lacks
 — dramatic juice. Regardless, Davies gives the
 — film an icy feel and brings to life an emo-
 — tional landscape where whispers can be not
 — only violent, but devastating. — M. Caro
 — (PG: thematic elements) 2 hours, 4 min-
 — utes. B

"MISS CONGENIALITY": The prattling,
 — tip-gloss sheen of Sandra Bullock's roman-
 — tic-comedy is an ideal rest from a hard day
 — of thinking. The lovely leading lady is un-
 — attractively FBI agent Grace Hart, whose snort-
 — ing horse face and loss-of-the-rule-book
 — attitude makes her the ideal misfit to go un-
 — dercover at a beauty pageant. Bullock's
 — prattles are funny. Too bad the jokes had
 — the same direction. Nonthreatening Ben-
 — jamin Bratt stars as the lady-killer fellow
 — agent. Also starring Michael Caine (in a role
 — 10 years away from his sadistic doctor in
 — "Quills"), Candice Bergen and
 — William Shatner. — V. Chan. (PG-13: sexual
 — references and mild violence) 1 hour, 50
 — minutes. C

"O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?": The
 — most sublimely insane and creative movie
 — to come along for awhile is a strange hybrid
 — of musical comedy, silent movies and "The
 — Wizard of Oz." In the latest from the Coen
 — brothers ("Fargo," "Raiders of the Lost Ark")
 — George Clooney, John Turturro and Tim
 — Blake Nelson play a trio of chain-gang es-
 — capees making their way around the back
 — roads of Mississippi in the middle of the De-
 — pression. Based on "The Odyssey," al-
 — though beyond the basics the Homeric ref-
 — erences are fairly scant. The soundtrack is
 — fantastic, so are the visuals and you'll want
 — to make a return trip to catch all the jokes.
 — And there's a nice wood chipper in sight.
 — M. Pols. (PG-13: some violence and lan-
 — guage) 1 hour, 43 minutes. A-

"QUILLS": Bay Area filmmaker Philip Kauf-
 — man returns to directing after a seven-year
 — absence with a big splash, a movie about
 — the Marquis de Sade that has post-picture
 — nomination written all over it. Geoffrey Rush
 — ("Shine") plays the infamous pornographer,
 — who has been imprisoned in an insane asy-
 — lum. He keeps churning out the porn, which
 — is smuggled out to his publisher by a
 — comely laundress, played by Kate Winslet.
 — The movie feels almost like a farce until the
 — Marquis' quills (his pens) are taken from
 — him by a doctor (Michael Caine) who plans
 — to "cure" him of his sickness, and every-
 — thing grows dark and tragic. You won't see
 — a better collection of actors at work this
 — year. — M. Pols. (R: strong sexual content,
 — including dialogue, violence and language) 2
 — hours, 3 minutes. A

"REQUIEM FOR A DREAM": Very, very
 — good but hard to recommend, because
 — watching it is such a brutal experience.
 — Adapted (barely) from the Hubert Selby Jr.
 — novel of the same name, "Requiem" takes a
 — hard look at drug addiction. Ellen Burstyn is
 — a lonely Connetquot Island widow who gets
 — hooked on diet pills. Jared Leto plays her
 — son, who, along with girlfriend Jennifer Con-
 — nelly and best friend Marlon Wayans, is ad-
 — dicted to heroin. Director Darren Aronofsky
 — ("Pi") plays a series of visual tricks on us;
 — creatively, he's on fire, and so are all four
 — actors. — M. Pols. (NR: extensive drug use,
 — some nudity and some graphic sexuality) 1
 — hour, 42 minutes. A

"SAVE THE LAST DANCE": A formulaic
 — dance picture that's buoyed by the charis-
 — matic performances of its two leads, Sean
 — Patrick Thomas and Julia Stiles. There are a
 — few engaging lines sprinkled throughout,
 — but for the most part this is a punch-the-
 — numbers affair as an aspiring ballerina
 — (Stiles) leaves a small town after her
 — mother's death and becomes involved with
 — a man who's lord of the dance at a hip-hop
 — club. The chemistry between Stiles and
 — Thomas is good, but the film's overladen
 — with clichés. — D. Gorman. (PG-13: vio-
 — lence, sexual content, language and brief
 — drug references) 1 hour, 53 minutes. C-

"SHADOW OF THE VAMPIRE": A strange,
 — occasionally ravishing movie about
 — the making of the first cinematic vampire film,
 — F.W. Murnau's silent hit, "Nosferatu." Don't
 — go expecting, however, a literal "making-of"
 — film. Director E. Elias Merhige has a little fun
 — with the story, making the "Nosferatu" star
 — (played well by Willem Dafoe) a real vam-
 — pire. "Shadow of the Vampire" tries, with
 — mixed success, to be scary, funny and pro-
 — found. It is, for one thing, an extended es-
 — say, alternately grating and provocative, on
 — the metaphysics of moviemaking. — A.O.
 — Scott. (R: brief nudity, some drug use and
 — the consumption of large quantities of

blood.) 1 hour, 34 minutes. B

"SNATCH": Guy Ritchie's latest is a glib,
 — briskly written and edited caper flick that
 — features Brad Pitt's most entertaining per-
 — formance since "12 Monkeys." Funny, then,
 — how eminently forgettable it is. The
 — talented Ritchie is like a kid who can't stop
 — playing a video game he really likes, even
 — though he's already top-scorer. — M. Pols.
 — (R: strong violence, language, some nu-
 — dity) 1 hour, 44 minutes. B

"STATE AND MAIN": A David Mamet
 — movie about a Hollywood film crew setting
 — up shop in small Vermont town. It's not as
 — sharp and biting as you'd expect from
 — Mamet, but it's pretty good fun. Alec Bal-
 — win plays an egotistical star with a predilec-
 — tion for teen-age girls, Sarah Jessica Parker
 — a starlet who doesn't want to take off her
 — shirt, and Philip Seymour Hoffman is the
 — forlorn writer who's been told he has to rad-
 — ically alter his story to fit the location. — M.
 — Pols. (R: language and brief sexuality) 1
 — hour, 46 minutes. B-

"SUGAR & SPICE": A witless rehash of the
 — summer's cheerleader comedy "Bring It
 — On." Smart-mouthed pep squadders stick
 — up a grocery-store bank branch when the
 — perky squad captain (Quarley Shelton) gets
 — pregnant by the star quarterback. That's
 — about it for the plot, as the film slips into a
 — comatose state, where sardonic wit is
 — nowhere to be found. It's simply over-the-
 — top, forced humor. — C. Lemire. (PG-13:
 — language, sex-related humor and some the-
 — matic elements) 1 hour, 20 minutes. F

"THIRTEEN DAYS": Looks can be deceiv-
 — ing. What could have been a state history
 — lesson on the Cuban missile crisis is trans-
 — formed into a thoroughly satisfying and ab-
 — sorbing movie. Even though we all know
 — the outcome, "Thirteen Days" is an atten-
 — tion-grabber that hums along almost like a
 — good thriller. Kevin Costner is the weak link
 — as the presidential aide involved in the crisis.
 — Much better are Bruce Greenwood as
 — JFK and Steven Culp as RFK. A tense film
 — that's directed with clean snappiness by
 — Roger Donaldson ("No Way Out"). — M.
 — Pols. (PG-13: language, images of nuclear
 — destruction) 2 hours, 18 minutes. A-

"TRAFFIC": Steven Soderbergh's epic
 — story of the drug war in America is, hands
 — down, the best movie of the year. It hits
 — every angle, from Benicio Del Toro's strik-
 — ing turn as an honest Mexican policeman
 — in a sea of corruption to Michael Douglas
 — as America's newest drug czar, a man
 — too intent on the bigger battle to realize his
 — teen-age daughter is dipping into hard
 — drugs. We even met up with a drug king-
 — pin and his pregnant wife (Catherine Zeta-
 — Jones). This is a big movie, challenging
 — and deeply rewarding. The ensemble cast
 — is absolutely mind-blowing, and so is the
 — dexterity with which Soderbergh both
 — welds his camera and weaves a fascinat-
 — ing story. — M. Pols. (R: pervasive drug
 — use, strong language, violence and some
 — sexuality) 2 hours, 27 minutes. A

"THE WEDDING PLANNER": Jennifer
 — Lopez really shows off a delightful
 — comedic talent as Mary Fiore, who pulls
 — off outlandish matrimonial ceremonies with
 — the military precision of an army general,
 — the technology of a concert promoter and the
 — soft-spoken grace of an ambassador. She
 — finds herself falling in love with pediatrician
 — Martin McDonough, who rescues her
 — from a runaway trash bin, until she discov-
 — ers he's the fiancé of her wealthy client,
 — Fran Donnelly (Bridgette Wilson-Sampras).
 — Keenly funny moments and the kinder, less
 — vindictive approach to resolving interest-
 — ing love triangles make this romantic com-
 — edy glitter in its genre. — V. Chan. (PG-13
 — for language and some sexual humor) 1
 — hour, 40 minutes. B+

"WHAT WOMEN WANT": Ignore the
 — crash trailers. Mel Gibson's comic venture
 — argues for the return of the musical. Al-
 — though directed by Nancy Meyers, this
 — covert operation of the sexes in pre-1965
 — Hollywood style is by no means a
 — women's film: Gibson, though, manages
 — to pull it off as a son of a showgirl and an
 — arrogant charmer who, in an accident, ac-
 — quires the ability to overhear women's
 — thoughts. After his initial bewildered hor-
 — ror, he uses it to compete with his new
 — boss (Heien Huang). The wack-up's rhythm
 — is rushed and (expectedly) hokey, but the
 — operation before then is mostly a diverting
 — success. — V. Chan. (PG-13: sexual con-
 — tent and language) 2 hours, 3 minutes.
 — B+

"YI YI": The full measure of life's many
 — confusions is the subject of "Yi Yi," Ed-
 — ward Yang's long, sprawling and master-
 — fully of a contemporary Taiwanese
 — family. Yang deftly places the personal
 — dramas within informing social and ex-
 — pressive aesthetic contexts. — B.
 — Strauss. (Not rated.) 2 hours, 53 minutes.
 — A

Heels

FROM PAGE C3

her live-in boyfriend in bed with an-
 — other woman. Amanda's poor judg-
 — ment vis-à-vis the opposite sex is a
 — running joke throughout the movie,
 — as is her ha-tendency to twist her
 — sentences in front of the object of
 — her affection. "I've got the runs,"
 — she tells Jim. "I mean, I've got to
 — run."

The only apartment we actually
 — see Amanda look at is a gorgeous
 — two-story loft with the unlikely price
 — of \$500 a month. Turns out the four
 — models who live there rent-free, cour-
 — tesy of their agency, just want a lit-
 — tle spending money. They offer
 — Amanda a closet of a room and she
 — moves in, only to make the happy
 — discovery that the loft's living room
 — windows look directly onto Jim's liv-
 — ing room.

The models know him — he's
 — supposedly a fashion industry execu-
 — tive — and set out to get the two
 — lovebirds together. To that end, they
 — encourage her to crash a party at his
 — place, with them in tow. "Who would
 — keep models away from a party?"
 — they tell her when she balks at the
 — idea. The plan goes well until
 — Amanda thinks she sees Jim kill a

woman in his living room (Hitch-
 — cock, take a spin in that grave), and
 — from there the movie just deterior-
 — ates even further into a morass of
 — miscommunication, incoherent plot-
 — ting and pathetic dialogue as
 — Amanda and the girls attempt to "in-
 — vestigate" Jim.

To be fair, there are some laughs,
 — all of them revolving around the
 — models, played by real-life models
 — Shalom Harlow, Sarah O'Hare, Ivana
 — Milicevic and Tomiko Fraser, who do
 — a nice job parodying women in their
 — profession. They walk around the
 — apartment in next to nothing — strip-
 — ping off their tight tank tops at a mo-
 — ment's notice to trade — and en-
 — tertain an endless line of male visitors,
 — who start signing up for the waiting
 — list at 8 p.m.

Harlow in particular, who has
 — acted before in "In and Out" and was
 — featured in "Unzipped," has a gift for
 — comedy. And Milicevic's deadpan
 — Russian delivery is a sly play on the
 — Milla Jovovich persona. But both of
 — them get dragged down by "Head
 — Over Heels'" low standards; the
 — movie's two biggest jokes involve the
 — models, toilet and excrement. Imag-
 — ine Austin Powers without the id-
 — iotism.

The legions of teen-age Prinze
 — fans will be pleased to hear that he
 — does a lot of smiling in this role, and

Tucker

FROM PAGE C3

Berkeley Department of Dramatic
 — Art and Center for Theater Arts. It
 — is devised by director Reid Davis
 — and nationally renowned designer
 — Kate Edmunds, who work with an
 — ensemble of 21 actors, musicians
 — and puppeteers. The farcical side of
 — this two-faced production draws on
 — commedia dell'arte, vaudeville and
 — silent movie performance styles.

This "clown show" is interrupted
 — by the second version of "Shrew"
 — — a more "realistic" contemporary
 — (Shakespearean) version that ex-
 — plores the darker narrative of how
 — closet homosexuality causes Petru-
 — chio and Kate to enter into a disas-
 — trous marriage of appearances.

"Shrew You!" plays at 8 p.m.
 — Fridays and Saturdays, and Sun-
 — days at 2 p.m. from Feb. 16
 — through March 4 at the Zellerbach
 — Playhouse on the UC Berkeley
 — campus.

Tickets are \$12 general, \$8 UC
 — faculty and staff, \$6 seniors and
 — students. Call 510-601-8332 or
 — order online at www.ticketweb.com.
 — Tickets can also be purchased in
 — person at the Zellerbach Play-
 — house one hour before showtime.

SHOTGUN BLASTS OFF:
 — "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me,"
 — is written by celebrated Irish play-
 — wright Frank McGuinness. The
 — play is based on true stories of
 — people who were held — and still
 — are held — captive in foreign
 — lands.

The taut drama launches the
 — Shotgun Players "On the Road ...
 — Again" 2001 season. It's an excit-
 — ing and eclectic season of seven
 — productions, ranging from Sher-
 — wood Anderson's "Winesburg,
 — Ohio" to "Iphigenia in Aulis" by
 — Euripides. Venues are likewise far-
 — ranging from Berkeley to San
 — Francisco, including the annual
 — summer park free production.

The Bay Area will be unusually
 — caught up in Greek tragedy this
 — year. Berkeley Repertory Theatre
 — inaugurates its new playing space
 — in March with "The Oresteia," a
 — trilogy of plays about the repercu-
 — sions of the Trojan War on the
 — House of Atreus. "Iphigenia in
 — Aulis," Shotgun Players' mid-sum-

mer free production in Berkeley's
 — John Hinkel Park and John
 — McLaren Park in San Francisco, is
 — the play that sets that war in mo-
 — tion.

"Someone Who'll Watch Over
 — Me" plays at 8 p.m. on Thursdays,
 — Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at
 — 8:30 p.m. from Feb. 15 (preview)
 — through March 17.

Tickets are \$15 general, \$10 se-
 — niors, students and Theatre Bay
 — Area members. Call 510-655-0813
 — or visit the Web site [www.shotgun-
 — players.com](http://www.shotgun-
 — players.com).

NOW UP AND RUNNING: So
 — much for tidbits to whet your ap-
 — petite for entrees to come later.
 — Here are a couple of main dishes
 — already served up and sampled.
 — Both are soufflés — one a tad
 — lighter than the other.

"The Fantasticks," a light,
 — bright, feel-good concoction by the
 — Pinole Community Players, has not
 — lost its whimsical charm despite
 — getting a bit long in the tooth at
 — age 41 (on May 3, the date of its
 — 1960 off-Broadway debut).

Two fathers, looking with favor
 — on the girl-boy attachment grow-
 — ing up between their respective
 — offspring, decide to fake a grumpy
 — disfavor on the well-worn belief
 — that the best way to encourage the
 — young 'uns to do something is for
 — the old folks to be against it.

Originally directed by Janet
 — O'Brien with an assist from Carley
 — Praml, Kathie Praml's poster-color
 — costumes add to the spirit of fun.
 — Musical direction by Ted Bigornia.
 — Choreographed by Angee Nor-
 — gaard. Patti Clark produced.
 — Splendid musical accompaniment
 — by pianist Joanne Gabel and
 — harpist Tom Silva.

Strong performances by Andy
 — Walenta-Brown as Hucklebee, the
 — boy's father, and George Doerr as
 — Bellomy, father of the girl. Very
 — funny work by Art Reardon as the
 — Old Actor and Daniel Morgan as
 — Mortimer, "The Man Who Dies."
 — And does he ever! Was that one or
 — two minutes of fake terminal
 — whininess?

Leah O'Brien and Glen Riggs
 — play the young lovers. Derrick
 — Silva does the dashing El Gallo,
 — the Narrator. But one of the most
 — memorable performances was the
 — mesmerizing, soundless presence
 — of Maureen Nichols as the Mute.

that his eyes continue to crinkle and
 — twinkle in a most charming fashion
 — when he administers said smile.

In her brief and far from illu-
 — strious moviemaking career, Monica
 — Potter ("Patch Adams," "The Very
 — Thought of You") has often been
 — compared to Julia Roberts. It is an
 — apt comparison — there's something
 — about the mouth and nose combina-
 — tion, despite Potter's blonde hair and
 — blue eyes — but it's sort of tragic.
 — Potter even delivers her lines with a
 — Roberts-esque tone of voice. I might
 — not have been so cynical as to think
 — this is deliberate if I hadn't seen Pot-
 — ter do some girlish hand-wringing in
 — one scene, body language straight
 — from the Roberts canon. Her wacky-
 — but-vulnerable performance is so
 — woefully mannered that it can only
 — be judged as an imitation. She needs
 — to stop.

But the most depressing thing
 — about "Head Over Heels" may be
 — what has happened to its young di-
 — rector, Mark Waters. His first film,
 — "The House of Yes" (1997), although
 — not quite as good as it was billed to
 — be, was nonetheless an impressive
 — debut. Clearly he caught Hollywood's
 — attention with that Parker Posey dark
 — indie comedy (it also starred Prinze),
 — but if it just means he was handed a
 — shallow dud like this, what was the
 — point?

"The Fantasticks" plays at 8
 — p.m. Fridays and Saturdays
 — through Feb. 17 with matinees at 2
 — p.m. today, Feb. 4 and Feb. 11 at
 — the Community Playhouse, 601
 — Tennent Ave., Pinole. Tickets are
 — \$14 general, \$10 for seniors and
 — students. Call 510-724-3669.

FUNNY, FRANTIC 'BRIDE':
 — "There Goes the Bride," a British
 — farce by Ray Cooney and John
 — Chapman, is on stage weekends
 — through Feb. 24 at Contra Costa
 — Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave., El
 — Cerrito. Michael Ray Wisely di-
 — rects.

Contrary to "The Fantasticks," a
 — gentle, flower-cart musical about a
 — romance between the kids next
 — door, "Bride" is a runaway train,
 — blowing the petunias off the sta-
 — tion platform as it barrels through
 — a posh neighborhood, where
 — preparations are under way for a
 — society wedding.

The father of the bride, adver-
 — tising executive Timothy Westerby
 — — played by Mark Manske — is in
 — the throes of creating an ad cam-
 — paign for a bra built upon a flap-
 — per figure. For readers under 60,
 — the "flapper" was a short-haired,
 — Charleston-dancing, rolled-stock-
 — ings sex symbol of the 1920s and
 — '30s.

Westerby gets conked on the
 — head and crumples behind a
 — couch. Next time we see him, as
 — he is helped up, he is accompanied
 — by the flapper only he — and the
 — audience — can see.

Laughs build on Timothy's
 — amorous conversations with the
 — unseen femme fatale and his ef-
 — forts to hide her from the others,
 — who can't see her, but he doesn't
 — know this. It builds slowly, but the
 — first-night audience laughed long
 — and loud.

The show plays at 8 p.m. Fri-
 — days and Saturdays through Feb.
 — 24, with matinees at 2 p.m. on Feb.
 — 4 and Feb. 11. Tickets are \$10 gen-
 — eral, \$6 for seniors and youths 16
 — and under with current ID. Call
 — 510-524-9132, at Contra Costa
 — Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona.

Send items of interest to Jack c/o
 — the West County Times, P.O. Box
 — 100, Pinole, CA 94564; fax to 510-
 — 262-2776; e-mail to [tucker@cc-
 — times.com](mailto:tucker@cc-
 — times.com), or call 510-262-2768. In-
 — clude a contact name and number.

Mann

FROM PAGE C3

"Disney shouldn't open a sec-
 — ond park in California. They should
 — open in Commeliland. It would be re-
 — created behind the Iron Curtain."
 — When you go long lines everywhere,
 — when you go to the head of
 — the line, there'd be no one there —
 — a pair of shoes." I like Ross'

the way, you can hear Ross's
 — and entertaining radio show
 — 9 to noon weekdays on the
 — at www.kiroradio.com.
 — This from the Vancouver
 — area, a local weekly: Fare
 — givers are costing this city and
 — C.C. government millions of
 — a year, the paper says. The
 — for the city's light-rail line,
 — train, are handled on the hon-
 — Canadian spelling) system. So
 — the parking fees in this city's
 — Stanley Park. The B.C. gov-
 — ernment is resisting attempts to
 — to enforce the honour
 — — Think BART could get
 — with using the honor system?

(Other) Brothers: True
 — 1970, I was covering an All-
 — Brothers concert in Montreal
 — rock critic for the morning
 — an annotated cloud hung over
 — recordings, of course, and my
 — neighbors were boogying (or
 — what we called it then) to

songs from the classic Allmans' al-
 — bum "Eat a Peach."

I noticed a Dad in a suit and tie
 — and his little boy behind me, an in-
 — congruous sight. The worried-look-
 — ing man finally tapped me on the
 — shoulder and asked, "Excuse me.
 — Isn't this the Osmond Brothers con-
 — cert?" Boy, was HE ever in the
 — wrong place.

I thought of this funny incident
 — as I watched ABC's silly new made-
 — for-TV sweeps biopic, "Inside the
 — Osmonds," debuting Sunday night
 — at 8 on Channel 7. Watching it, I re-
 — membered how the Osmonds ex-
 — isted in a pop vacuum in the days
 — when rock was at its peak, when
 — bands like the Allmans, The Stones,
 — CSN&Y, etc., ruled. But if you be-
 — lieve this ABC movie, no act was
 — bigger back then than the Os-
 —monds.

But rock was the mainstream
 — then, not the Osmonds, an assem-
 — blage with impressive dentition and
 — some talent that found fame as a
 — novelty act on Andy Williams' weekly
 — vanilla variety show. In the heyday
 — of album rock and the likes of
 — Bowie, Hendrix, Led Zeppelin et
 — al, the Osmonds cranked out catchy
 — hit singles, thanks partly to slick
 — promoter Mike Curb, California's
 — future lieutenant governor, who
 — then ran MGM Records.

The focus of Sunday's film is
 — the eight siblings' strong ties to
 — family and the Mormon Church.
 — "Family, faith, and career — in that
 — order," was the mantra of "strict
 — yet level-headed" Dad George Os-
 —mond, played by Bruce McGill

(who once played biker "D-Day" in
 — "Animal House"). George — who,
 — like all the Osmonds, signed off on
 — this ABC project produced by the
 — youngest O, Jimmy — was, it says
 — here, no Murry Wilson, the domi-
 — neering Beach Boys' father who
 — smacked his sons around in last
 — year's ABC biopic. But one senses
 — the Beach Boys' movie may have
 — been closer to the truth than this
 — sanitized retelling.

If you had only this movie (with
 — hordes of screaming teenie-bop-
 — pers seemingly borrowed from "A
 — Hard Day's Night") as a point of
 — reference, you'd think the Os-
 —monds were the hottest act of their
 — time: We see them on stage, rock-
 — ing hard in their silly white leather
 — jumpsuits. We see two Osmond
 — boys fending off female fans' ad-
 — vances in a motel room. Yes...Os-
 —mond groupies! My favorite line
 — Sunday is when oldest brother
 — Merrill laments, "We could have
 — been the next Led Zeppelin." Sure,
 — Merrill.

But watching "Osmond Family
 — Values," as one might call Sunday's
 — intermittently entertaining film, I
 — kept thinking of reporter Robert
 — Scheer's great line in his 1976 Los
 — Angeles Times profile of new
 — "Good Morning America" host Joan
 — Lunden, who knew dismayingly lit-
 — tle about the Vietnam War: "This is
 — a person," Scheer wrote, "whose
 — life has been unaffected by the ma-
 — jor events of her time."

(Questions? Comments? E-mail Bill:
 — Newsman@sonic.net.)

Events

FROM PAGE C3

**California College Of Arts And
 — Crafts** —

"Contemporary Cabinet of Curiosities:
 — Selections from the Vicki and
 — Kent Logan Collection," through
 — March 3. This exhibit offers a col-
 — lection evocative of wunderkam-
 — mer, the 17th century "cabinet of
 — wonders" that preceded the mod-
 — ern museum.

Free, Monday, Tuesday and Thurs-
 — day through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5
 — p.m.; Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 9
 — p.m. Oliver Art Center, 5212 Broad-
 — way, Oakland. (415) 551-9210.

Creative Growth Art Center —

"King Louis and The Queen of
 — Hearts," through March 2. A solo
 — retrospective of works by Louis
 — Estape.

"Mask," through March 2. An exhibit
 — of the 2001 Limited Edition Print
 — Portfolio.

"Memoriam," through March 2. A
 — memorial exhibit of works by
 — Manuel Correa,

Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.

Children

UC Davis Department of Music presents the Emperian Ensemble performing a "Children's Concert" on Saturday, Feb. 3, 4 p.m. at Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Ave. Come hear a musical story about a soldier, a princess, and the devil. Cost: \$10 general, \$4 children and \$8 adult accompanied by a child. Tickets are available in advance from CBON, 925-798-1300. For more information, call 845-8542.

The City of El Cerrito, offers special programs for children from 22 months to five years of age. These programs are designed to offer parents an opportunity to leave their pre-school children in a safe atmosphere under qualified supervision. The program for ages 22 months to 3-1/2 years meets Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration is continuous as long as space is available. Located at 7007 Mooser Lane. For more information, call Judie, 215-4371.

LGSTQ Parent and Prospective Parent Groups meet the first Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. with concurrent childcare. All groups meet at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley. Donations are requested, but not required. For information or to RSVP, contact Anna at familyprogram@yahoo.com or 415-789-8560 classes.

The Ann Martin Children's Center offers eight "Support Groups For Mothers," sessions for first time mothers and babies their babies under 5 months. Experienced facilitator. For information: 524-0821.

Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley's public science museum and center for K-12 science and math education offers three residential summer science camps, including two camps held at actual University of California field research stations; and three Sierra backpacking summer science camps. Each camp emphasizes fun outdoor science explorations through hands-on, inquiry-based activities, as well as lots of traditional camp fun. Each camp has a unique theme, and is designed for a specific age group. Call 642-2275 or e-mail to: lshinfo@uclink.berkeley.edu. To register, call 642-5134.

"Theater Rats," Julia Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 863-7023 for additional information.

Health

Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT) support group meets Thursdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. Call 524-3506 for additional information.

YWCA Health and Community Education, drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370, \$8 - \$10.

Community

Turning Point at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, sponsors Resume Clinics on Tuesday afternoons, or by appointment. To sign up for an appointment, leave a message several days before you would like to meet. Anne Levine Ph.D. has a background in Design and Education. For the past 10 years, she has assisted in producing numerous resumes as part of her desktop publishing business. Call 848-6370 for additional information.

Marion Rosen, founder of Rosen Method bodywork and movement, presents the Method through lecture, demonstration, and experiential practice. Rosen is joined in the presentation by Sara Webb, Senior Teacher of Rosen Method bodywork. Location: Feldenkrais Resources, 830 Bancroft Way. Admission: \$10. Reservations are strongly recommended. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Abby Paige, at 845-6606.

Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services presents a new series of free Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes. The classes give basic, practical information, including hands-on training in fire suppression, light search and rescue, and disaster first aid. All classes are held at the fire department's Emergency Operations Center, 997 Cedar St. The classes are open to everyone, 18 or older, who lives or works in Berkeley. To register, or for more information, call the Office of Emergency Services, 644-8736.

Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive offers a guided tour of Equal Partner: Men and Women Principals in Contemporary Architectural Practice presented by graduate students from the UC-Berkeley Department of Architecture, College of Environmental Design on Alternating Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and on Sundays at 2 p.m. For additional information call 642-0808.

Overeaters Anonymous meet Fridays at 1:30 PM at the Northbrae Community

Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Mann avenues, in Room 2—the childcare room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively? For further information, call Katherine at 525-5231.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice—Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

Civil Rights activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington. P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

"Work Buddies", volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292.

Psychic Healing clinic; 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief; 1-800-642-9355.

SMART project; the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8902 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs.

The Edible Schoolyard, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1335 for information.

English-in-Action lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversation partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley, Call 843-9716.

Women's Daytime Drop-in Center in Berkeley; serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

Exhibits

Open Studio, 1250 Addison St., No. 214, presents the artwork of Susan Brooks, Feb. 3 and 4, 10 to 11 a.m., and Feb. 12, 13, and 14, from noon to 5 p.m. The gallery is also open Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment. Call 845-2612 for more information.

The Kala Art Institute, 1060 Heinz Ave., presents an exhibition of recent work in the complex and rarefied process known as photogravure from Feb. 8 to March 30. Developed in the 19th century and often referred to as "the aristocratic of photographic process," photogravure prints achieve luxurious tones ranging from luminous whites to rich velvety blacks. Gallery hours: Tuesday-Friday, noon to 5 p.m., or by appointment. Reception: Thursday, Feb. 8, 6-8 p.m. Call 549-2977 for more information.

The Berkeley Art Center's Annual members' showcase continues through Saturday, Feb. 3. Hours: Wednesday-Sunday 12 to 5 p.m. Admission is free. The center is located at 1275 Walnut St., in Live Oak Park. Call 644-6893 for more information.

Red Oak Realty's Art Gallery, 1891 Solano Ave., Berkeley, presents "Still Life and Landscapes," by artist Pamela Markmann through March 24. Viewing hours: Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. Call 527-3387 for more information.

The Albany Arts Committee presents "Art Happens at the Bulb," photographs by Dan Robbin through March 1 at the Albany Community Center Foyer Gallery, 1249 Marin Ave. Albany. For more information, call 524-9283.

The City of El Cerrito presents Open Clay Studio ongoing classes on Mondays, 7-9 p.m. Experience with clay is helpful, but not necessary. Opportunities will be provided for students to explore areas of clay work. Demonstrations and instruction will be provided on requests. Admission: \$7.50 residents, \$9.38 nonresidents. The location: Tassajara Pottery Center, 2575 Tassajara Boulevard. For more information, call Judie at 215-4371.

Alta Bates Medical Center presents work by members of the California Watercolor Association at its Community Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. The gallery is in the main corridor to the left of the information desk and main entrance. Call 204-4444 for additional information.

New Pieces Gallery is located on Solano Avenue. New Pieces is the only gallery which shows quilts and soft cloth sculptures and dolls exclusively. The gallery is open during store business hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. except major holidays. Details: 527-6779.

Literary Events

The Richmond Museum of History, 4th and Nevins Ave., downtown Richmond, presents "Richmond Blues," a slide lecture by Dr. Shirley Ann Wilson Moore on Sunday, Feb. 4, from 2-4 p.m. Dr. Moore is professor of history at Sacramento State University and author of "To Place our Deeds: The African-American Community in Richmond, 1910-1963." Admission is free. For more information, call 235-7387.

The Reading Edge is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2121 Alston Way. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available for anyone with a disability that requires its use to access print material. Users must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call the Reference Desk at 644-6648 to set up a

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

NATURE CALLS

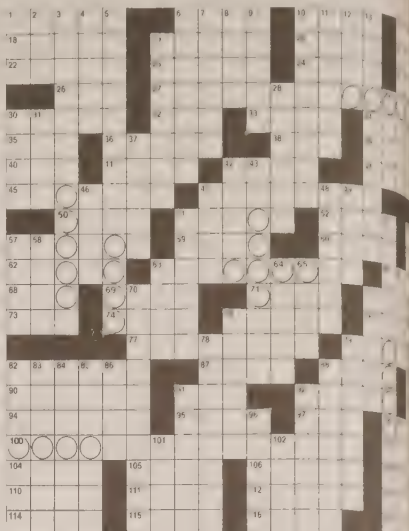
By JIM PAGE / Edited by WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- 1 Spin doctor
- 6 Some TV's
- 10 Like some sketches: Abbr.
- 14 90%, say
- 18 Its walls withstand a lot of pressure
- 19 Novelist Ephron
- 20 The rain in Spain
- 21 Enough, for some
- 22 Pick up
- 23 Key material
- 24 Outlying district, briefly
- 25 Ginza glower
- 26 Never, in Nordhausen
- 27 When the American Academy of Arts and Sciences was founded
- 30 Cross with
- 32 ___ chi (martial art)
- 33 Eight in a row?
- 34 Hands-on defense?
- 35 Patriot, e.g.
- 36 Flip side?
- 38 Sonority letters
- 39 Social reformer Bloomer
- 40 14-Dawn's warning
- 41 Some annexes
- 42 No formal discourse
- 44 Lift, so to speak
- 45 Lake sleep, ideally
- 47 Where sharks prowl
- 50 Linguist Chomsky
- 51 "The Christmas Song" co-composer
- 52 Mrs. Rabin
- 54 Winter time: Abbr.
- 57 Destroyers, in brief
- 59 "Gotcha"
- 60 ___ colada
- 61 Prefix with friendly
- 62 "Knight, Death and the Devil" engraver
- 63 Local forecast focus
- 66 Tawny thrush
- 68 Record's end?
- 69 Germs may grow in it
- 71 Blender sound
- 72 Oklahoma state tree
- 73 Surprise party admonition
- 74 Lock producer
- 75 Took a position in the service?
- 76 Scott Turow book
- 77 Kind of day, month or year
- 79 Least perturbable
- 82 Dog
- 87 "Howdy!" sayer

DOWN

- 5 "Harper Valley P.T.A." actress
- 6 Leaks
- 7 Saki's "The Chronicles of"
- 8 Frigid follower?
- 9 Refuse
- 10 Diamond legend
- 11 Unconvincing concurrence
- 12 Dogpatch possessive
- 13 Mr. Kotter's portrayer
- 14 Crossbreeding result
- 15 Two quarters
- 16 Dog that yips
- 17 Like some loan repayment plans
- 19 Concentrate, in a way
- 28 Durango dish
- 29 Neil Diamond's "___ Said"
- 30 Church dignitary's title: Abbr.
- 31 It flows through the Lake of Thun
- 37 Some college endowers
- 42 It may be stuck in an apple
- 43 Morgagor, often
- 46 1,000-page, e.g.
- 47 Part of 108-Dawn
- 48 "Tijuana Taxi" performer
- 49 "Star Wars" role
- 1 Blood brother
- 2 Spawns
- 3 Crime-solving couple of old radio
- 4 Skylit courts



- 51 Kind of seating
- 53 Be clueless
- 54 No great endeavor
- 55 Almond
- 56 Peace Nobelist John ___ Orr
- 57 Juice bar stock
- 58 Justice Souter's appointer
- 63 Neighbor of Mauritania
- 64 Up
- 65 Streamlet
- 67 "James Joyce" author Leon ___
- 70 Place for pumps
- 72 TV exec Arledge
- 75 Former Polish capital
- 78 Sexless ones
- 79 It began after 1945
- 80 On ___ (without a contract)
- 81 Kind of support
- 82 Intoxicant
- 83 Ins features
- 84 Used, as an idea
- 85 Unaffected
- 86 Delhi wrap
- 88 Some vacuum tubes
- 91 Harv

training session.

Meetings

The Berkeley Fellowship Unitarian Universalist Hall, 1924 Cedar Ave., presents a "Protest Meeting and Teach-In Regarding Energy Crisis and What Needs to Be Done" on Sunday, Feb. 4, at 3 p.m. The group will explore the history, development, and future of the energy situation in the East Bay, including possibilities of conservation, clean, renewable energy, and municipally-owned public utilities. Speakers: Barbara George, Women's Energy Matters; Kirk Worthington, Berkeley City Council, TURN Representative; Ross Mirkarimi, Green Party; and others. Refreshments. Call Richard Chalcombe, 233-3175, for more information.

A free discussion and social group meet first and third Tuesdays monthly, from 7-9 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut Ave. The next meeting is Saturday, Feb. 6. Topic: "Sex, Love, Dating, Relationships." The discussion group is led by Robert Berend, an investment advisor and financial planner in Kensington. Purpose: to meet and learn from other people, and have some interesting discussions. There is no religious bent, no point of view is pushed. Bring light snacks or drinks to share. For more information, call Berend at 527-5332 or fax 527-9772.

California Retired Teachers Association, West Contra Costa Division No. 58, meet on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at noon, at St. Luke's Methodist Church, 3200 Barrett Ave., Richmond. This is a luncheon meeting. The program features Elise Strauss from the Senior Fraud Fighter Bureau with information about fraud, scams, hiring contractors, elder abuse, and more. Cost: \$9. Lunch reservations are required. Call 234-3046 by Feb. 2.

Berkeley Camera Club meets Tuesday evenings, 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda. Share your slides and prints, and learn what other photographers are doing. Monthly field trips. Call Wade, 531-8664, for more information.

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 25 meets on the third Tuesday of the month. The evening begins with a no host dinner and fellowship at 7 p.m. at 2068 Center St. A short business meeting follows at 8 p.m. at 1931 Center St., the Veterans Memorial Building. Price: \$3. Women who have had relatives in the US Military are invited to attend and join the auxiliary. For more information, call R. DeRilli, Cmdr. D.A.V. Chapter 25, 916-372-8364.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public and the great variety of workshops held every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

The Berkeley Avatar Metaphysics Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Thursdays, from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., at 2515 Hillegass Ave. Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together. For more information, call 869-2547 or 643-7645.

Berkeley Toastmasters Club meet monthly, on the first and third Thursdays at 2515 Hillegass Ave. The group specializes in developing its communication and public speaking skills in the field of metaphysics. The group also learn from each other through short speeches. Call Odette Larde at 869-2547 or 643-7645.

The Kensington Senior Activity Center meets on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Arlington Community Church, 52 Arlington Ave. The center's community program of life-long learning is presented by the West Contra Costa Adult School. Attend any class or event you choose. Everyone over 55 is welcome. Call 526-9146 or 547-1969 for additional information.

The YWCA offers free orientations every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. of its Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the center's resources and the variety of workshops it offers to the public. For additional information, call 848-6370.

Speak Smart! Join Beijing Express

Toastmasters. The Smart Club! Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

Toastmasters Meeting. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice with us. Every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS) meets every Thursday evening at the First Baptist Church, Richmond, on Solano below Arlington. Call Betty Coates 235-0490 for more information.

Joy of Yiddish: Yiddish conversation at 1 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. Call 644-6107 for additional information. The Berkeley Communicators Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant. Details: 524-3765.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group meets on the second

Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maflay Auditorium, Herriock Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Dr. Brian Kaye, a rheumatologist, has treated many patients with various types of arthritis and will be available for questions. For additional information call 204-4503.

Toastmasters on Campus meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillegass. Details: 704-1822.

Public speaking skills and metaphysics come together at Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters. On-going meetings first and third Thursdays, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., 2515 Hillegass Ave., Call 869-2547 for details

Spirituality and Healing through Story Circles. Spirituality healing group for people threatening illness. Meets Wednesday of each month at Berkeley. Call 528-1238 for details. **State Health Toastmasters** meet every second, third and fourth day of the month from 7:00 p.m. at the State Health Berkeley Way. Details: 644-4040. **Higher Alignment**, 7 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative spiritual partner. Center, 630 Bancroft Way. (415) 461-5337; 520

See CALENDAR Pg.

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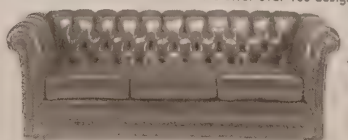
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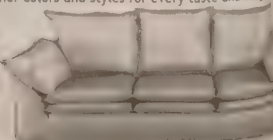
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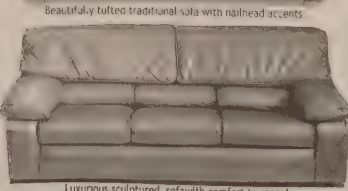
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FROM PAGE C8

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For information, please call the Director of Classified Personnel at (510)644-8636

Calendar

FROM PAGE C7

The Comprehensive Cancer Center and Breast Center at Alta Bates Medical Center, 3001 Dwight Way, offers a support group for friends and families coping with cancer. The support group is offered on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. This is a free service. Call 204-1811 for additional information.

The Lupus Foundation of Northern California is still accepting applications for its Youth Pilot Support Program currently underway at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. The group meets monthly and is open to teens suffering from lupus and other rheumatic diseases. For more information, call (408) 954-8600 or visit www.balf.org.

The City of Berkeley Portable Meals program desperately needs drivers to deliver 15 meals once a week to home-bound seniors. Call 644-8590.

The North Berkeley Senior Center is also seeking volunteers to work in its gift shop, coffee bar and dining area three to four hours, one day a week. Call 644-6107.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education group presents Dorothea Dorenz, a state certified massage and movement therapist, who teaches self-healing methods. Bring a small pillow, and wear loose, comfortable clothing. For directions or more information, call 204-4503.

Lecture/Workshop

"Getting Paid to Help Other People Get Organized" is the subject of the Brown Bag Career Talk at the Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way, on Tuesday, Feb. 13, from noon to 1 p.m. Speaker is Kathy Waddell, a professional organizer who specializes in helping families and individuals stay on top of their busy lives. She also teaches other organizers and is working on a book about organizing for Roxbury Park Publishing. Cost: \$3 at the door. For more information, call 848-6370.

California State Health Toastmasters Club is offering a six-session workshop

to help participants learn basic public speaking skills starting Feb. 8, from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m., at California Department of Health Services, 2151 Berkeley Way, room 804. Cost is \$30. Workshop dates: Feb. 15 and 22, and Mar. 8, 15 and 22. For more information, call Edie Higgins, 649-7750.

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public as well as the different things that the center has to offer such as a great variety of workshops. They are held every Tuesday, at 1:30 p.m. The Turning Point Career Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way. For more information, call 848-6370.

Learn Computer Applications for the "working" world Using Windows '95 and '98 and Microsoft Office 2000 software, Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, Publisher. Class offered: Monday-Friday, 2:15 - 6:15 p.m. Location: Contra Costa County Office of Education, 13925 San Pablo Ave., Suite No. 111, San Pablo. For information call 237-0840 or visit the web site at www.ccoec.k12.ca.us/rop.

"What is Meditation," is a peaceful and practical introduction to the basics of meditation. The free seminar takes place at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2352 Shattuck Ave. Prigato Dove is the facilitator. Call 644-0861 for additional information.

Emotions Anonymous: Twelve-Step meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 236-8226 for Berkeley location.

Religion

Tibetan Nyingma Institute hosts an open house Sunday Feb. 4, 3 to 5 p.m. "How To Liberate Your Life and Death," a free introduction to Tibetan Buddhist culture, is the theme. Open house is followed by Tibetan chanting at 5 p.m. and a lecture entitled "Meditations for Releasing Pain" by Nyingma Institute dean Sylvia Gretchen, from 6 to 7 p.m. All events are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served during the open house. Call 843-6812 for more information.

"Voices of Healing" is a group exploring the spiritual dimensions of illness and healing. The group meets on the second Friday of each month, 1 to 2:30

p.m., in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for more information.

Theater, Dance & Film

The Black Repertory Group, 3201 Adeline St., presents "Educating Lenny" Sundays, Feb. 4, 11, 18, and 25, at 7 p.m. Lenny, a Black man of 38, talks about his "Mis" education and reasons for returning to community college as an adult. Admission: \$5. For more information, call 652-2120.

The North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst at MLK Jr. Way, presents Creative Dance with Julie on Monday, Feb. 5, at 2:15 p.m. For more information, call Maggie or Suzanne at 644-6107.

The Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Place, Richmond, presents "Picasso at the Lapin Agil," Friday and Saturday nights through Feb. 24, at 8 p.m. Sunday matinees: Feb. 11 and 18, at 2:30 p.m. Two great geniuses of the 20th century, Pablo Picasso and Albert Einstein, lock wits in a hilarious battle of ideas about painting, probability, lust and the future of the world. Tickets: \$12. For reservations, call 232-4031.

Contra Costa Civic Theatre, 951 Pomona Ave., continues its forty-first season with the British comedy "There Goes the Bride," through Feb. 24. The day of his daughter's wedding Timothy Westerby gets a bump on his head and craziness ensues. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. The opening night performance is followed by a champagne reception with the cast and crew. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5 youth (16 and under with identification.) For reservations, call 524-9132.

Pacific Film Archive presents the Ninth Children's International Film Festival on Sundays, Feb. 4, 11, 18, and 25. Sunday matinee programs present some 20 animated and live-action features and shorts. The screenings take place at the New PFA theater at UC Berkeley campus, 2575 Bancroft Way near Bowditch Street. Admission is \$4 for adults and children. For further information about programs or tickets, call PFD at 642-1412.

The Pacific Film Archive offers a course in film history "Film 50: History of Cinema," 3 to 6 p.m. through May 2. Call 642-5249 for more information.

Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., presents "Fall," a coming-of-age comedy by Bridget Carpenter, through Sunday, March 11. Tickets: \$15.99 to \$51. For ticket information, call 647-2949, or visit the Web site at www.berkeleyrep.org.

Learn easy international folk dances, fun for all ages at the Albany YMCA, 921 Kains Ave. No experience necessary. Wear comfortable shoes and come prepared for a good time. Admission: Adults \$2 and \$1 for kids. For more information, call 525-1130.

Family Folkdancing takes place on the third Sundays, 1-2:30 p.m. at Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo Ave. Instructor: Denise Schultz Weiss. Bring your feet and a spirit of fun. No experience necessary. An opportunity for families to dance and laugh together. Drop in for good fun and exercise. All ages welcome. Drop-in class, no registration needed. Adults \$3, children \$2. Call 632-3713 for additional information.

Swing Dance Classes! Learn East coast

swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shagtime Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Work Studio, 2566 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. For more information, call Michael Marangio at 528-7858.

Classes

The Ecology Center Library, 2530 San Pablo Ave., offers an introductory fruit tree pruning and training class on Saturday, Feb. 3, 10 a.m. to noon for the home fruit grower. Proper pruning increases the flavor and size of fruit, as well as preserves the health and longevity of the tree. Cost: \$10 for non-members and \$7.50 for members. Call 548-2220 to reserve a space.

Folkdance classes, Mondays 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Arlington Community Church, 53 Arlington Ave. (across from the Kensington Library.) Simple and clear lessons for people of all levels. Emphasis is good music and fun. Cost: \$30 for 6-week session (pro-rated fees apply), \$8 for drop in session. For more information, call Mel Harte, at 848-5289 before 9 p.m.

Vista Community College, 2020 Milvia St., offers its new Sunrise College this spring with classes in accounting, e-commerce, business, Java programming, English, ESL, statistics and Spanish for business professionals. Classes start at 7 a.m. and end at 9 a.m. Call 981-2800 for more information.

Assets Senior Employment offers a job

training program for young people 55 and older living in Emeryville, Berkeley and Albany when you learn, interested with children? You can receive credit in Early Childhood Education while being paid. Classes start Call 238-3554 for more information.

The Albany YMCA offers classes for elementary school age children. The sports and dance program and Hip Hop and enrichment such as cooking, sewing, and more information, call 528-7858.

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, College Ave., offers a family program of classes-workshops-activities taught by professional artists, all aimed at bringing participation into people's everyday lives. Classes take place at the Center for the Arts. For more information, including complete schedule, fees, and instructions, call 528-7858 or visit www.juliamorgan.org for a brochure.

The Berkeley Adult School offers Adult Basic Education and School Diploma Requirements. Preparation classes which are designed to earn a GED certificate. Preparation for US Citizenship. The classes are free. BA for an affordable fee. Additional classes and compensation from introduction to Advanced Computer. Call 644-6130 for add

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Calendar

PAGE C8

South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Shattuck Ave., offers a variety of classes. For more information call 848-2288 and ask for Patrick, John or Sage.

Ashkenaz, 1317 San Pablo Ave., offers many dance classes ranging from Afro-Cuban to Kathakali dances of India, to West Coast Swing to Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing. The Ashkenaz is a nonprofit music and dance community center. Call 525-5054 for additional information.

Life Stories/Collage and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Teachers are Diana Bohn and Judith Carroll. Call 845-6830 for additional information.

Contemporary Women's Issues class is forming at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free class offered by the Berkeley Adult School, taught by Judith Carroll, MFCC. Friday mornings 10 a.m. to noon. Open to all women 55 or older. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

Dance and Fitness classes open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, bellydance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theatre dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information: 848-6370.

Lat's Swing and Jitterbug, 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate; four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes.

Volunteers

Parental Stress Service, Inc. seeks volunteers for its parental support and child abuse prevention hot line. The next training for counselors begins on Tuesday, Feb. 20. To learn more about the services or to volunteer, call 800-829-3777.

American Cancer Society seeks volunteers for its Daffodil Days. Until March

are held on Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 2239 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. For more information call 848-2288 and ask for Patrick, John or Sage.

8, daffodils, the first flower of spring and the symbol of hope for a cancer-free world—will be sold to benefit the American Cancer Society's groundbreaking research, community education, legislative advocacy and patient service programs. Volunteers can help by distributing order forms; organizing daffodil sales in the workplace or community; planning flower delivery routes; arranging bouquets or delivering flowers. For more information call 1-877-691-HOPE.

The Alcohol Research Group (ARG) is conducting a study, funded by a grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). The goal of the study is to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. The study is called the SMART Project. Interested parties may call 1-888-249-8802 for more information.

The Crisis Support Services of Alameda County needs volunteers to provide telephone crisis intervention. The agency needs motivated committed people to serve its 24-hour crisis lines. No prior experience required. Excellent training provided. Call 848-1515 for more information.

Volunteers are needed at the Alameda County Community Food Bank to staff emergency food referral service, the Hunger Hotline. Shifts are available on Monday and Tuesday mornings, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Call volunteer coordinator Mary Schoen at 834-FOOD for more information and a current volunteer newsletter.

Contra Costa County Volunteers in Probation are continually seeking dependable volunteers, 21 years plus, who want to spend time with youth on probation. Training will be provided and screening of all applicants is required by the Probation Department. If you are interested, call Kat Thompson, Director of Volunteers in Probation 925-313-4187 or email kmthompson@hotmail.com.

The Richmond Public Library seeks Internet Docents to teach Internet skills and to provide hands-on assistance to library patrons. Volunteers are needed for the main library Adult Department, the Children's Department, and the Bayview or West Side branch libraries. Volunteers agree to work with the public for at least one three-hour slot per week for a three month period. Solid Internet skills, including knowledge of Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer and the ability to use two search engines well are required. Applications are available at the information desk at the main library or at the two branches. For more information, call 820-6561.

Women's Daytime Drop-In Center in Berkeley needs volunteers. The center serves women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 548-6933.

Volunteers needed at Good Stuff Thrift Shop in El Cerrito. A fun, friendly place to work, all proceeds benefit developmentally disabled children and adults. Call 528-9455 for additional information.

Women's Cancer Resource Center, 3023 Shattuck Ave., needs compassionate volunteers to help women with cancer through its information and referral hotline, library, or in-home practical support. Time requirements are two to four hours per week for 6-12 months. Call 548-9286 ext. 309 for an application, interview and more information.

Parental Stress Service, Inc. seeks volunteers to serve as Telephone Hotline Counselors. The agency offers supportive counseling to families who need to be heard. To learn more about volunteer opportunities call 893-9230.

Volunteer at the Crucible, 1035 Murray St. Sharpen skills, and meet new people in the community. All talents are appreciated. The Crucible is an educational collaboration of arts, industry and community. Call 843-5511 or e-mail crucible@ups.net for more information on how to get involved.

There is an immediate need for Home Delivered Meal volunteers at the "Open House" Senior Center to deliver noon day meals to the homebound in Kensington, El Cerrito, and Richmond Annex. For more information, call Nichols at 215-4342.

Breast Cancer Action, an advocacy and activist organization aimed to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic, is seeking volunteers. A wide variety of volunteer opportunities, including events, activist and task force help, and office work during the week, are available. Call 415-243-9301, for additional information.

Berkeley's Women's Daytime Drop-In Center needs off-site volunteers to help with mailings, fund-raising events, and holiday programs. Training is provided for all volunteers who can devote three-and-a-half hours a week to working at the Center. Other on-site opportunities include answering phones and performing administrative functions. Those wishing to volunteer should call 466-5663 or 548-6933.

Leah McIntosh Senior Outreach Services Community Volunteers for the Elderly, 402 Harbour Way, Ste. 105, in Richmond, needs Senior Errand and

Shattuck Ave., needs compassionate volunteers to help women with cancer through its information and referral hotline, library, or in-home practical support. Time requirements are two to four hours per week for 6-12 months. Call 548-9286 ext. 309 for an application, interview and more information.

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Leah McIntosh Senior Outreach Services Community Volunteers for the Elderly, 402 Harbour Way, Ste. 105, in Richmond, needs Senior Errand and

Escort Volunteers. During the winter months volunteer drivers are especially needed. Volunteer Drivers escort seniors to and from medical appointments. Training is provided. Call 237-7887 for additional information.

La Pena Cultural Center needs volunteers with technical sound skills. The commitment is two diagrams per month. Call Kanti 849-2566 ext. 11 for more information.

The Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program is currently accepting volunteer applications for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). CASA volunteers work with the court to advocate the best interest of abused/neglected children in the Alameda County System. To receive an application and information call 288-7297. No previous experience is required. Volunteers for teens, ages 14 and up urgently needed

How to reach our staff:

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jdeaton@cctimes.com

Joaquin McPeck, reporter, 510-243-3578;
jmpeck@cctimes.com

Dining & Entertainment

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HOME and Garden

Energy Crisis Checklist

by Honey Do Repair & Chimney Co.

seems California has again entered into an energy crisis and we need to do what we can to conserve. More importantly, since we will be paying more for the energy we use, we need to make sure we are not wasting it. Here are some tips to help conserve energy and save money.

• Check around doors and windows for drafts. Where cold air comes in, warm air also goes out. Install weather stripping or seal with caulk to keep drafts out of the air.

• Replace furnace filters and clean your air ducts. Not only will this help your furnace work more efficiently, it also helps keep contaminants out of the air.

• Install more insulation. Insulating the attic or basement can help keep the house warmer. We recommend at least R14 insulation and it should not be installed around knob and tube wiring.

• As we use the heater more, it is important to check for back drafts from the furnace due to a clog in the flue. A clogged flue can cause carbon monoxide to come into the house. The water heater flue should also be checked for back drafts.

• Sweep the chimney to eliminate soot build up and carbon monoxide poisoning and to keep you and your family safe from a possible house fire. Although it is not recommended, you may find you're using the fireplace more as an alternate source of heat. Most fireplaces are designed for decorative fires only. Be sure your chimney sweep professional is certified by the Chimney Safety Institute of America.

• Check for gas leaks. If you smell anywhere in your house, it's not

only dangerous, but is an added expense on your utility bill.

• Check for dripping hot water faucets which may waste water and increase your utility bill. It's like "money down the drain."

• Drain and flush your water heater to remove the sediment that builds up at the bottom. This will make it work more efficiently and increase its life expectancy. If you have an older model water heater, it should be blanketed to insulate it.

• Make sure your clothes dryer is vented to the outside and that the vents are free from lint build up. A clogged vent can increase the time it takes to dry your clothes, increase your utility bill and is a fire hazard as well.

• Clean the coils on the refrigerator to make it work more efficiently and to save you money.

• Discontinue the use of extension cords to run heaters, refrigerators, freezers or any other large appliance as it is a fire hazard if the cord overheats.

• Exercise the circuit breakers. Turn all the circuit breakers off and then back on again so you are confident that they work correctly.

With the threat of rolling black outs becoming a reality, here's some items you should keep on hand and easily accessible.

• Flashlights - Use flashlights rather than candles - it's safer.

• Batteries - It is always a good idea to have extra batteries around the house.

• Radio with good batteries.

• Blankets - depending on how long the power is out, it might get cold.

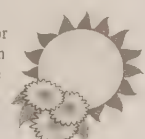
• Hand-held video games with bat-

teries to keep the kids entertained.

• Manual can opener.

• Uninterrupted power source (UPS) for your computer. This will kick on immediately when the power goes out and gives you time to save your data and turn off your computer safely.

• Battery back-up for sump pump in case the power goes out during a storm.



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To take a home energy survey from PG&E, go to www.pge.com/smarterenergy. You will need your latest PG&E bill. To move from assessment to action, PG&E has a statewide program offering financial incentives to perform upgrades that will improve your home's energy performance. To use this program,

you will need to hire a contractor from their Residential Contractor program. For more information on PG&E programs, you can call 1-800-933-9555 or check it out on their website while you're taking your home energy survey.

Another site for surveying energy use in your home is www.hit.bl.gov. While it is not necessary to have your utility bill to complete this survey, it will give you a more accurate assessment if you have three months to a year's worth of records. This site will suggest upgrades and provides estimated return on investment for those upgrades.

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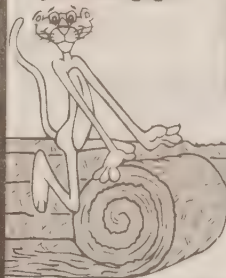
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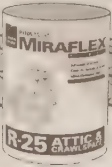
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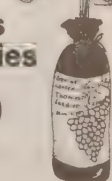
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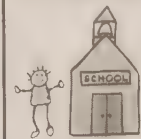


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February 2, 2001

Section D

Down the Road: General Motors is going after those 20-somethings [D3]

Drive, She Said

By Denise McCluggage

Autowriters Select Car of the Year

What about this Car of the Year stuff? Knowing a car or truck was so important affect the way you shop for one? You are one of the cynics who think the magazine is influenced in its selection by a manufacturer's advertisement in its pages. Shame on you.

You are the doubting sort, there is one far removed from the suspicion of industry influence because its selection is made by some 50 journalists — ply their pen for a wide assortment of American Canadian magazines, newspapers, TV radio stations. Maybe it will mean nothing that this year the North American Car (and Truck) of the Year group came with the same winners as Motor Trend magazine, which has been awarding such honors longer than anyone.

Five years ago Motor Trend decided to move the Sport Utility Vehicle category from the truck category and now acknowledges the best-of-the-year vehicles. The North American autowriters group sticks to car truck categories. And that makes for a discussion and no little confusion. This year, for instance, the North American Car of the Year is Chrysler's PT Cruiser which has been categorized as a truck

See DRIVE, Page D2



MOTOR MATTERS

THE 2001 GMC YUKON DENALI boasts more power with its new Vortec 6000 V-8 engine that produces 320 horsepower and 365 lb-ft of torque.

2001 GMC Yukon Denali features exceptional agility

■ Stiffer frame and wider track improve maneuverability

The disadvantage of large sport utility vehicles is maneuvering these monsters into small parking spaces. With the 2001 GMC Yukon Denali, however, parking is surprisingly easy. Full-size SUVs are becoming more popular because they offer more seating capacity without cramming passengers.

The Denali's interior is spacious; even the third row of this eight-passenger vehicle

provides decent head-and-leg room. The drawback is getting to the rear seat. There's another drawback. Should the Denali be loaded with eight occupants, storage is limited to hold about eight attache cases; eight suitcases would be a major problem.

With my negative comments out of the way, let's get to the factor that makes the Denali exceptionally attractive: agility. It's

Keane on Wheels

By Tom Keane

easy to steer this gigantic vehicle. For example, I purposely made a U-turn in a street that was about 40-feet wide and had responsive steering and handles similar to what is expected of a midsize sporty sedan.

Denali was introduced by GMC in 1998, along with another upscale model called the Denali XL. The XL has a longer wheelbase, resulting in less agility, but both are

luxuriously equipped to make any ride enjoyable.

This year, the GMC people tell me the frame is 23 percent stiffer, a construction which improves the handling and ride. Now the Denali has a wider track for more stability, plus five-link coil spring suspension with self-leveling shock absorbers. The list of technical components is long but boils down to this: Denali has just about every component desired to make

See KEANE, Page D2

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THIS OVERHAULED AND REFURBISHED COUGAR with its trusty 390 V-8 is only now approaching 88,000 miles.

'69 Cougar owner glad he never made sale

"A loose spark plug wire is the best thing that ever happened to me," Richard Bliss claims. He is referring to an incident a quarter century ago.

It all began in the autumn of 1968 when Bliss was a fresh young government lawyer. He learned he had been accepted for Air Force pilot training in Laredo, Texas. With that knowledge he knew the first thing to do was to get a hot set of wheels — everyone knows all Air Force pilots drive only hot cars.

A Corvette would be nice, Bliss thought, but it was too pricey. After settling on a 1969 Mercury Cougar, in November 1968, he went to a Ford-Lincoln-Mercury dealership and ordered the car of his dreams.

He selected the popular Cougar coupe on a 111-inch wheelbase: a model that sold more than twice the number as the rest of the Cougar line combined. Bliss had to have the extra-cost option of the proven 390-cubic-inch V-8. It was only an extra \$127, and who knows when you might need to draw on 320 horsepower.

Some of the other optional extras include Whisper-Aire cooling, four-speed stick shift, AM-FM stereo radio, power steering, black vinyl roof, power front disc brakes, sports console, handling package, tinted glass, and head restraints.

Bliss came within \$57 of ordering options worth half the base price of the Mercury. The total for the optional extras was \$1,471, and the price of the car was \$2,999. Adding in \$75.75 for transportation charges brought the total to \$4,545.75.

The next eight weeks dragged by. At last, Bliss was notified, and he picked up his brand-new, dark green Mercury Cougar on January 7, 1969. The dual white pinstripes added visual length to the car.

"When the car was five or six years old," Bliss said, "I tried to sell it." That's when good fortune saved him from himself. "I wanted \$1,500 for it," he recalls.

One prospect came to see it, and reasonably, wanted to hear it run. That's when the loose spark plug wire caused it to run terribly rough. The prospect left, and only then did Bliss notice the loose wire. Reconnected, the engine ran perfectly smoothly. At that point he decided to keep his Cougar.

For his marriage to wife Joan and for the arrival of son Brian, the Cougar performed flawlessly at both nuptial and natal duties. The saddle-color interior upholstery hides a multitude of mishaps.

In the early 1980s, the car's appearance was freshened with a new

coat of green paint. Even then, when nearing 20 years of age, the sleek lines belied its age. The headlights are covered by doors with the outline of a four-legged cougar on the right door.

At the other end of the car are six taillights, three on either side of the license plate. Although each side has only three lights, the Mercury designers made one red lens to cover all three. That lens is decorated with two dozen vertical chrome ribs.

The Cougar is famous for the sequential turn signals. When activated, the taillight closest to the license plate flashes followed by the middle light and finally the outboard light.

Until the turn signal is canceled, the sequential process keeps repeating itself.

The wheel covers were something akin to those on its cousin, the Mustang. Each one had five simulated spokes with a cougar emblem in the center.

In 1994, Bliss decided to have the car repainted once again and have the drivetrain, with 85,000 miles, overhauled.

Just in case he should need more power to get out of harm's way, Bliss had the heads on the trusty 390 V-8 milled and a full race cam installed.

trucks of the year are the Chevrolet Silverado Heavy Duty and the GMC Sierra HD.

These two pickups — essentially twins who refuse to dress alike in an effort to establish individuality — might have suffered by splitting the votes of admirers.

Trust me, these are fine trucks with many improvements, including the availability of four-wheel steering. Imagine maneuvering a large pickup in a crowded parking lot as if it were a small car!

In the car category, Chrysler's PT Cruiser was a runaway favorite for its originality, uniqueness, usefulness and styling. Its poor showing in crash tests (two stars out of five) did not seem to hurt it, although as jurors we do take safety, plus value, into consideration.

My third choice in cars came in third. That was the Honda Insight. The fact that the second place Toyota Prius and the Insight are hybrid cars with both gasoline and electric motors shows that "green" is a color the panel liked.

One of the requirements for eligibility for the Car of the Year is that expected sales volume should be 5,000 or more.

The Insight had sold only 3,500 by November, but it was decided that the sales projections are honest, so it remained on the list. Good thing. If you are really strong into economy, but like smart styling and pleasurable driving, the Insight deserves consideration.

Fourth in the balloting for the Car of the Year was the Mercedes C-Class.

Classic Classics

By Vern Parker

Coupled with the above modifications is an exhaust system using what he describes as the "teeniest" muffler known to man.

However, after four years with the job still incomplete, Bliss took legal action to retrieve his car to have it completed elsewhere.

Now that the '69 Cougar looks like new and runs better than new, Bliss enjoys driving it to his law office on nice days. He wouldn't do so if he didn't have private protected parking.

"I have always thought the Cougar was an overpowered car with a back seat that was too small," Bliss is amazed that he's owned the car more than 30 years.

He was 24-years-old when he made the purchase and his son, Brian, is now knocking at that same door.

"Brian has wanted this car since he was 10," Bliss says. He's going to have to wait a while. The overhauled and refurbished Cougar is only now approaching 88,000 miles. "It's a tie to my youth," Bliss says. "A time that was fun."

Now that's a real toughie. The C-Class is Class A, no doubt. Smooth, pleasant, luxurious but also a good value, secure, handsome.

The trouble might be that those attributes are what one expects from a Mercedes. No new ground broken. Just the usual excellence.

A surprise to me was that the Audi Allroad did not fare better. It was my close second choice.

The Allroad is also a vehicle that is hard to categorize. It's a handsome station wagon with the ability to alter its ride height to clear snowdrifts or mild off-road obstacles, but it is a comfortable, well-handling highway car, too.

Face it. Many new vehicles are hard to pigeonhole, and you'll be seeing the term "crossover" more often.

Anti-lock brake cause of Chevy pickup's woes

Dear Doctor: I purchased a used 1990 Chevrolet K 1500 pickup 4x4 automatic with anti-lock brakes. This truck has the worst brakes I have ever seen. There is no such thing as a panic stop. Even when I slam two feet down on the brakes, the pickup does not stop short. I have called Chevrolet, Kelsey Hayes Company, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, but no one can help.

I had the brakes checked and replaced by two different shops, and both say I share a common complaint with other Chevy truck owners. At 80,000 miles on the truck the rear brakes are only 30 percent worn. Where does the problem lie? Ed

Dear Ed: In my opinion, General Motors has had a brake problem on all its light-duty trucks since installing the anti-lock brakes system. The rear brakes are not getting hydraulic fluid pressure when you step on the brake pedal.

The first step is to make sure there is hydraulic fluid pressure coming out of the master cylinder. This test is done by disconnecting the lines at the master cylinder and using a pressure gauge. I have found the problem to lie in the anti-lock brake unit or in the proportion valve, if equipped.

I cannot advise you to alter or remove the factory ABS system — only have a professionally certified technician attempt to install an adjustable brake proportion valve. These are available at any speed shop. Another test the shop can try is a bypass (disconnect the lines to the ABS system). Then the technician can road test the truck. Remember, in a panic stop without the ABS system in place, the tires will lock up.

Ask the Auto Doctor

By Junior D.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1990 Chevrolet Sonoma. The truck is in good shape except for the paint that is peeling off. Is there a good paint on this truck? It's been there for last more than 10 years.

Dear Susan: During the last 10 years and into the early '90s, many problems with paint. The problem is the color, did not primer. You can try a dealer and GMC. After a vehicle's life, any type of help would be good. General Motors stands behind many out-of-warranty.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1990 Chevrolet lac Seville 4.1-liter V-8. The engine is prone to connect head problems. When me about this engine, however, it does not power. Henry

Dear Henry: The 4.1-liter V-8 engine has had its share of problems, including head and valve problems. The good news is that a rebuild engine is available at not just a Cadillac dealer, but a note: some 4.1-liter engines without any problems. There is a normal maintenance to prolong its life.

see DOCTOR on page 10

Drive

FROM PAGE D1

by at least one government agency. Whatever it's called, the Cruiser's flexible interior space makes a winner. The North American Truck of the Year is the Acura MDX, which also won Motor Trend's SUV of the Year.

I am one of the 50 panel members, and my first choices emerged the winners. (However, it seems odd that the winning "truck" would be praised by so many panelists for its "car-like" manners). The second and third place "trucks" were SUVs: the Ford Escape and the large Toyota Sequoia. Excellent machines, but my personal opinion on the best "honest-to-truckness"

Keane

FROM PAGE D1

this an exceptionally smooth-riding, easy-to-handle, sport utility vehicle.

The 2001 model now has more power produced by a new Vortec 6000 V-8 engine that produces 320 horsepower and 365 lb-ft of torque. Unlike competitive products, this torque peak range runs from 1600 to 5200 rpm — ideal for towing trailers up to 8,500 pounds.

Contrasting an engine that produces impressive statistics for acceleration, GMC made changes in the opposite area: stopping.

Denali, riding on Michelin touring tires, now has exceptionally large anti-lock brakes enabling this 5,938 pound vehicle to stop in a 20-foot shorter distance.

Another area deserving accolades is the all-weather control of the all-wheel drive system.

No need to determine if and when to shift into four-wheel drive; the Denali is always ready for any road surface because it has a state-of-the-art AWD transfer case that is always on and fully operational. Mechanical features of the Denali present only half the story; the plush interior is another.

Climbing up into the driver's seat (with the aid of a running board) I found the bucket seat featured ten-way power adjustment with preset memory positions.

This seat has a four-position head rest, plus an inboard fold-down armrest. This 2001 Yukon Denali even has a best-in-class electronic climate control system with very quick cool-down.

I was momentarily annoyed by the door-locking interior lighting system until I realized my preferences were programmable in a driver information center.

I could personalize numerous systems to my particular desires.

The 11-speaker Bose sound system accepts up to six CDs and features the patented Dynamic Equalization that automatically compensates for different listening levels. And the entire sound system shuts down when the driver uses the hand-free phone or OnStar system.

As expected, a sport utility of this caliber commands a high ticket price of \$47,634. For those who can afford it, this Denali is hard to beat.

SPECIFICATIONS: 2001 YUKON DENALI




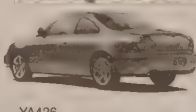
VEHICLE TYPE 8-passenger, 4-door AWD sport utility vehicle
BASE PRICE \$45,950 (as tested: \$47,634)
ENGINE TYPE V-8 Vortec 6000 w/SFI
DISPLACEMENT 6-liter
HORSEPOWER (net) 320 at 5000 rpm
TORQUE (lb-ft) 365 at 4000 rpm
TRANSMISSION 4-speed automatic
WHEELBASE 116 in. 2946 mm
TREAD (front/rear) 65 / 66 in. 1651 / 1676 mm

OVERALL LENGTH 198 in. 5052 mm
OVERALL WIDTH 79 in. 2004 mm
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TURNING (curb-to-curb) 38 ft. 11.7 m
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GM goes after 20-somethings at auto shows

General Motors unveiled more than a half dozen concept and prototype vehicles aimed at attracting young buyers at auto shows in Detroit and Los Angeles in January. The automaker is vying for the attention of the children of baby boomers.

The largest demographic group is the children of baby boomers, who are now in their late 20s and early 30s. GM really knows what young buyers want in their future transportation; in fact, they don't know either. Yet, GM is trying to find out.

Unveiling the Pontiac Vibe GT concept, Richard Wagoner, GM's executive officer, called it "the most offensive of products to the entry-level buyer market."

As a 2002 model, the Vibe concept vehicle that combines the look of a sports car, sport wagon and utility vehicle. The five-door, five-door, front-wheel-drive Vibe wears bold styling typical of GM's Pontiacs. It has a spacious interior and substantial cargo room in its compact frame. The Vibe concept is a 1.8-liter, four-cylinder engine equipped with variable valve timing to generate 180 horsepower. The engine is paired with a five-speed automatic transmission. The Vibe also comes with anti-lock brakes and a six-speaker, 200-watt stereo sound system. The Vibe concept, engineered by GM's Pontiac division, will be built at New Motor Manufacturing Inc., a joint venture assembly plant between GM and GM in Fremont, California. GM takes another stab at the

young crowd with the REV concept to be unveiled at the Chicago auto show in February. The REV blends the versatility and roominess of a crossover with Pontiac's heritage of sports car performance, a la Firebird and Trans Am. Think of it as a "muscle crossover." It is equipped with a 3.0-liter V-6 engine, rated at 245 horsepower under its hinged, clamshell hood. It is mated to an electronic sequential manual transmission which shifts through five speeds with a joystick like those on a video game. The REV is outfitted with all-wheel drive and an adjustable suspension with two settings: high for off-road and low for on-road.

The rear doors slide open — out and back — to load two rear seat passengers with no pillar between the seats. The tailgate lowers and swings down behind the rear bumper for a clear shot to the cargo bay. The glass liftgate swings upward. Four Motorola ligates system ride in a hidden compartment on the rear fender and can be taken on hikes. Materials used throughout the cabin are borrowed from sports equipment. The Lycra-covered gel seat padding is like that on bicycle seats. Four-point safety belts come from racing.

Possible as a GM model for the future is the entry-level crossover vehicle, the GMC Terracross concept. The Terracross continues the "industrial precision" theme first presented last year on a futuristic Sierra pickup truck called the Terradyne. Extremely roomy inside, the Terracross aims to please young people

who say they want open-air motor-ing, but plenty of room for friends and cargo. The roof's three glass segments move electronically to various positions.

Inside, the seats swivel so the interior transforms into a rec room on wheels. A midgate between the second row of seats and cargo area allows various configurations of people and cargo-carrying capability. The Terracross is equipped with a 3.4-liter V-6 engine mated to a four-speed automatic transmission and Versatrak all-wheel drive, the same system to be used on the Pontiac Aztek and Buick Rendezvous.

Aimed at active young buyers, the Chevrolet Borrego is GM's first vehicle to borrow mechanical components from Fuji Heavy Industries, Japanese maker of Subaru vehicles. GM purchased 20 percent of Fuji last year.

Designed to be rugged and agile like Baja rally cars, the Borrego uses Subaru's all-wheel drive system and its 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine, installed horizontally, mated to a five-speed manual transmission.

Down the Road

By Michelle Krebs

The Borrego looks like a two-seater with a six-foot pickup bed, but a reconfigurable midgate, similar to one used on the upcoming Chevrolet Avalanche, allows for two more seats with a shortened cargo bed. Individual cockpits give passengers their own space.

The Borrego is outfitted with a GPS system that provides navigation inside or outside of the truck through GM's OnStar.

An on-board air compressor and pressurized water tank let drivers hose down the interior and exterior or take a quick shower after a day on the trail.

"We can't miss this generation as we did baby boomers," Ronald Zarella, president of GM's North American operations, said.

"The next two to five years are going to be critical for putting vehicles into the marketplace that appeal to young buyers."

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Next generation RVs bring excitement

By Jeff Johnson

MOTOR MATTERS

There's nothing like a slow-down in the market, along with a basically changing buyer demographics, to get an industry thinking about new ideas and innovations to keep the retail sales going. That's how it works in the RV industry.

It's not as if the RV buyers have changed overnight, but the manufacturers are hoping to cash in on the wildly expanding group of baby boomers now entering the buying part of the market.

Those mostly younger buyers are accustomed to a certain level of style and quality in their consumer purchases, and the RV builders know they need to meet those expectations if they're to catch and hold these new buyers.

With the potential new marketplace in mind, two manufacturers showed radical new products at the recent Louisville RV show.

The Nex-Gen Concept Coach motorhome from Fleetwood Enterprises (www.fleetwoodRV.com) is one product that really has the potential to spark some really excited new thinking in the industry.

Fleetwood has yet to release any photos of the 26-foot coach, and in fact has not made the firm decision to go ahead with production.

The vehicle we previewed at the show was a "concept" motorhome in the same vein as the concept cars produced by Detroit auto companies, with the exception that the auto companies want the press to tell their readers about the vehicles; Fleetwood is being very hush-hush.

What we are able to reveal is that the Nex-Gen is conventionally styled like a small Class A, yet it contains a variety of exciting new ways to build and use current features.

Outside, the coach has special racks designed to carry surfboards, bicycles or other accessories favored by active individuals. Enclosed storage spaces, outside and in, further enhance the vehicle's functional aspects.

A distinct grille and custom wheels — plus exciting graphics — jazz up the exterior. Inside, unusual dashboard, storage and surface texture treatments make for an unique and definitely non-RV-like image.

Yet, the Nex-Gen is based on a standard Workhorse 8.1-liter GM Vortec gas-engine-powered chassis that helps keep its cost down.

No figures are set, but the Nex-Gen is expected to retail in the under-\$90,000 range.

But bear in mind that cost and every other detail are subject to change if and when the rig hits the market.

The derivative nature of the RV industry, in which other companies quickly copy a new product that sells well, means we'll very likely be seeing a raft of new RVs if these two exciting new products move off the dealer lots.

The net result of these rigs may be a whole new wave of interesting, contemporary youth-oriented RVs that break new ground in the industry.

It's an exciting time to be watching, and to be buying!



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Doctor

PAGE D2

Dear Doctor: In 1992, I purchased a Saturn SL2. Currently, the car has 100,000 miles. At 78,000 miles, it started to develop problems. The recent problem is long crank time sometimes takes a few tries to get the engine started. A recent day I came up with a faulty O2 sensor was told the faulty sensor was not cause a long crank time. Do you think about the new sensor?

Dear Beth: Long crank time problem is either a weak spark or a problem. The shop needs to check fuel pressure, injector pulse and voltage. Following these tests will locate the problem. The new Saturn models, there are a lot of cars in this class for you to consider. It will be up to you to decide which model you're interested in. I have not driven a Saturn lately, so I cannot comment on them.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1991 Cadillac. Occasionally while I am braking, the engine stalls out. All the lights illuminate on the dash, and even the engine has to be reset. Any ideas?

Dear Clarence: If the clock needs to be reset when the engine stalls out, the constant 12-volt supply is interrupted, or there is a ground problem. It is very common on older cars to have poor ground connections. You can have the shop check a simple secondary ground from the engine to the fire wall. The shop can also clean up all connections.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1996 Buick LeSabre which is serviced every 3,000 miles. Several months ago, both the "oil level" and "change oil soon" lights started to stay on for 30 seconds after the engine. This happens every time the oil reminder or not. The dealer is 30 miles away. The

car runs fine and does not use or leak oil. I contacted Buick and got no response. What do you think? Kathy

Dear Kathy: Sometimes the reset procedure needs to be done a second time to clear the computer. The oil level sender could also be out of range. There is a trouble chart to check this problem. This is not a major concern, so don't lose any sleep over it as long as the lights do go off.

Dear Doctor: I am the second owner of a 1989 Chrysler Fifth Avenue with 143,000 miles. My only complaint is the front end goes out of alignment every six months and starts to wear out the front tires. I have been to many shops, and the technicians say the previous shops did a poor job. Other shops say this vehicle has a poorly designed front end. What are your thoughts? Alex

Dear Alex: The older cars did have some alignment concerns due to the design. A properly aligned car would not just go out of alignment. There is a problem with either the technician performing the alignment or a worn part in the car.

Dear Doctor: I am interested in the new Ford Escape 4WD automatic with the V-6 engine. My wife and I both drove it and liked it. What do you think about it? My wife says never buy the first model year of a vehicle. Jay

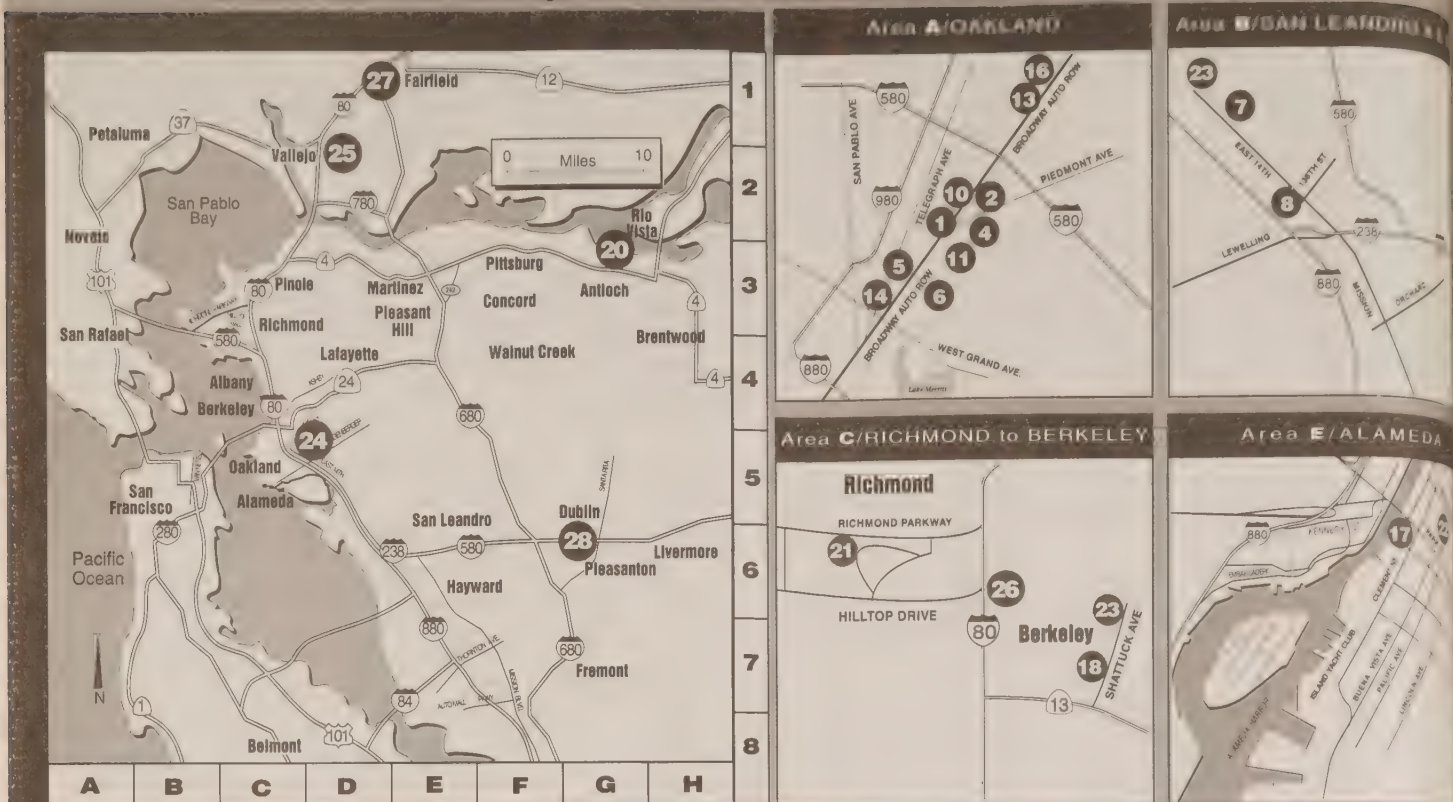
Dear Jay: I recently spent a week behind the wheel of a 2001 Escape XLT (200 horsepower 3.0-liter V-6 4WD) that had a sticker price of \$24,000. It came loaded with a moonroof and leather interior. For the money, the Escape seems to be a good value.

My average gas mileage was 21 combined city and highway. As for not buying the first model year vehicle, it's like not buying a computer today because next month there will be an updated model. I would have no problem with buying a 2001 Escape.

Send questions to: Auto Doctor, 3 Court Circle, Lakeville, MA 02347.

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Send resume and cover letter (including salary history and salary requirement) to: martinez@slfcu.org. Or fax to (505) 237-3718. For more information, check out our web site at www.slfcu.org or call 1-800-367-5328 ext. 7313. EOE.

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near Piedmont, 12 units, close. Rent reduction to \$400/mo. Call: 925-925-8125

ASSISTANT COMM. Mgr.

for Pleasanton Co. Lt. asst. to the Mayor. Must have 5 yrs. exp. in community relations. Phone 925/418-1009 or fax resume to 925/418-1005

ASSISTANT PROJECT COORDINATOR

for Pleasanton Co. Lt. asst. to the Mayor. Must have 5 yrs. exp. in community relations. Phone 925/418-1009 or fax resume to 925/418-1005

ASSOCIATE PLANNER I

for Pleasanton Co. Lt. asst. to the Mayor. Must have 5 yrs. exp. in community relations. Phone 925/418-1009 or fax resume to 925/418-1005

BACKHOE OPERATOR

With Class A license needed. Willing to set forms, tie rebar, and concrete. (925) 927-2411

BAKERY

Pastry chef with wedding exp. Brn. Napa. Call (707) 251-4699

BAKERY

Upscale bakery seeking P/T Counter Person. Please apply within 10 days. 1499 Newell Ave., W.C. 94594

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California Check Cashing has immediate openings at all branches. Don't miss this opportunity. We offer competitive salary, medical, dental, 401(k), profit sharing. An excellent growth opportunity. Apply in person or fax resume to: 925-925-8125

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Antioch Auto Center seeking someone to join our staff. Excel. salary & benefits. Apply at Antioch Toyota 1810 Somerville Rd., Antioch, CA 94509

AUTO MECHANIC

Minimum 3 yrs. exp. High school grad. Good pay. 401k plan, medical. Call for appt. (925) 927-3396

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Minimum 3 yrs. exp. High school grad. Good pay. 401k plan, medical. Call for appt. (925) 927-3396

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APPLIANCE/Cust svc START NOW! EARN A TRIP TO MEXICO! ***** QC co. has 23 pos. avail. Earn \$35/pcr. vacation to Puerto Vallarta. \$1600 salary to start. 925-925-8125

Appointment Setters

Salary + Bonus Danville home improvement co. needs exp. P/T Appt. Setters. Evening 6:30 Mon. thru Fri. No selling involved. Computer training. Professional, positive environment. Karen (800) 332-2442

APPOINTMENT SETTERS

Largest West Coast food company seeking enthusiastic outgoing and friendly individuals to assist our Las Vegas office. 9-5pm. Guaranteed \$12-14.00 per hr. commission - bonuses. Opportunity to make \$400.00 + per wk. Call Mr. Baker at an interview.

ARCHITECT

Architect. Res. Comm. AC14, mtd. exp. Grinda Brd. (925) 253-7828

ART DIRECTOR

Graphic design and gift company seeks art director with min. 5 yrs. exp. in design, layout, copy, design with emphasis on graphic design. Must have strong people and project management skills. Must be familiar with Photoshop. Please send resume and portfolio to: 925-925-8125

ASSISTANT

Business Office Asst. Exp. Bus. Off. Asst. to manager. Must have 5 yrs. exp. in business office. Computer exp. needed. Fax resume to: 925-925-8125

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All vehicles subject to prior sale, + tax, license, documentation fees, smog where applicable. Offers expire 2/4/01.



A map showing the location of Walnut Creek Pontiac GMC. The map includes Geary Rd., N. Main St., and Trest Blvd. A box highlights the intersection of N. Main St. and Trest Blvd., with a label: "Walnut Creek Pontiac GMC 2679 N. Main St." A north arrow and a scale bar (0 to 1 mile) are also present.

A map showing the location of Walnut Creek Chrysler Plymouth Jeep. The map features a north arrow pointing upwards. A thick black line represents Highway 680, which runs diagonally from the bottom left towards the top right. A smaller road, Ygnacio Valley Rd, runs horizontally across the bottom of the map. A street labeled 'N MAIN' runs vertically, intersecting Highway 680. Another street labeled 'N BROADWAY' runs vertically, further to the right. A horizontal street labeled 'PINE ST' intersects N Broadway. A street labeled 'PARKSIDE' runs horizontally, intersecting N Broadway. A small black square, representing the dealership, is located at the intersection of N Main and Highway 680. The text 'WALNUT CREEK CHRYSLER PLYMOUTH JEEP' is printed in the upper right area of the map.

Michael Stead's

WALNUT CREEK

CHRYSLER Plymouth Jeep

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John, West

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East Bay

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Medical Technologists (Technical Support Rep)
Hercules, CA

Using your outstanding customer training experience, you will solve problems with customers by providing telephone (chemistry) assistance, as well as document call contacts and assist with technical training. Your skill set will include a BS degree in Life Science or equivalent, and 3-5+ years' experience with Chemistry, HPLC, and/or Toxicology systems. Previous medical industry technical service experience, outstanding communication skills, in addition to solid problem solving abilities are essential **Job Code: D00-259B**

Hardware Support Engineer (Phone Support)

You will assist customers and field staff by providing telephone (hardware) assistance, as well as document call contacts and assist with instrument service training. To qualify, you must possess an ASEE or equivalent, and 3-5+ years' experience troubleshooting diagnostic instrument systems. Excellent electronic and mechanical skills are required **Job Code: D01-TSE**

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will be a 12-hour rotating shift position with responsibility for all phases of power plant operations including equipment systems. Must be able to work operational/electrical switching and process system operating orders, clearances and other operational transactions.

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will be a 12-hour rotating shift position with responsibility for all phases of power plant operations including equipment systems. Must be able to work operational/electrical switching and process system operating orders, clearances and other operational transactions.

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Begin the employment process by coming to our walk-in interview session on Friday, February 2nd from 10am-4pm.

LOCATION: 1601 Atlas Road in Richmond (near Hilltop Mall)
The nearest major intersection is San Pablo Avenue and Richmond Parkway.

For other interview dates and times, Call: 1-888-WORK-UPS

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General Environmental Testing & Quality Control Technicians wanted. No experience. Room for advancement for team. DMV record a plus. ASAP. (925) 661-4781

Water Treatment Chemist
Controls treatment plant machines and equipment to purify and clarify water for human consumption & for industrial use, as well as compliance monitoring and reporting for the water discharge permit and TTH. maintain safe working conditions with relation to the environment and health. Must possess bachelor's degree, 4-year college, with min. 3 years experience or equivalent combination of education and experience; ability to interpret safety rules, operating instructions, and procedural manuals; and good mathematical ability and analytical skills.

Training Coordinator
Develop and implement new employee initial plan orientation and basic training program; testing and skills assessment program; implement and execute cost measurement and control methodologies; requires technical knowledge of power plants, natural gas-fired boilers, condensers, and feed systems; thorough understanding of mechanical fluid, electrical and chemical principals as well as theory and dynamics of power plant operations; excellent oral and written communication skills; formal training in power plant theory and operation; electrical, mechanical and chemistry fundamentals and 10 years of practical experience in power plant operations and maintenance with four years of management level. Travel may be required.

Engineer
Track plant performance parameters, coordinate appropriate testing, provide system in equipment performance testing; carry out special projects associated with the operation, maintenance, or retrofit of the existing assets; and be involved in future expansion projects. Requires BS in Electrical or Mechanical Engineering; 5 years experience in related field; DCS experience a plus.

250 Help Wanted

GENERAL OFFICE
Hilltop area, casual environment. Book exp. req'd. Must possess A+ customer service skills & be multi-task. \$12.00/hr. Call: 925/678-0660 (Spanish help).

GENERAL OFFICE/CLERK
for attorney's office. In Martinez. Mgmt. exp. req'd. \$15/hr. w/bnf's. Must be an enjoy working to court. Fax resume to: 925/415-0262

GENERAL OFFICE
P/T Mtlz. Call. A/R exp. a + but not nec. \$8-\$10 DOE. Fax resume: (925) 672-6116

GENERAL OFFICE
Welp. Busy office, customer service. Apply at Mike's Auto Body, 2260 Via de Merced, Concord, EOE

250 Help Wanted

ESTHETICIAN
Cloud Nine Skin Care
Danville (925) 831-2541

FINANCE ADMINISTRATIVE
Temp and Direct Hire
East Bay & San Francisco

Loan Processor- \$17/hr
1-8 mo. Assign. Process loan documents. Must have a loan processing background. Real Estate knowledge also a +. Good customer service skills.

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Data Entry Operator \$12/hr.
3 mo. Assign. Alpha and numeric data entry.

Accounting Clerk \$12-\$14/hr.
Direct Hire, AP, AR & GL. Quickbooks a +.

Administrative Asst. \$13/hr.
Phones, fax, data entry, correspondence.

Call Laurie Thompson
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(925) 942-4445
E-mail: laurie@dmstone.com

DM STONE
RECRUITMENT SOLUTIONS
1660 N. Calif. Blvd., Ste 615
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250 Help Wanted

ESTIMATOR
Take off estimating inside Sales. Exp. pref. P/T & D. Call: 925/447-4841

FINANCIAL ADVISOR
Morgan Stanley Dean Witter has an opening for a Financial Advisor. Free expense training program offered. Sales & Comm'n. skills req'd. Fax resume to: 925-284-2850 EOE

FINANCIAL Please see our display ad under "Loans" in Home News.

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Exp. offered, clean DMV, rate based on exp. Call 707-446-6243

FLOORING COVERING
HELPER. No exp. needed. Exp. \$10-\$12/hr. Call: 925-831-9587

FLOORING Seeking hardworking individual looking for a career in hardwood floors. No exp. needed, will train. Own tools. Good pay. Call: 925-831-9587

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CR is a professional contracting company that is seeking other professionals that desire to be part of a well organized, progressive contracting firm. For additional information regarding our company, please call our Concord office at: (925) 942-0253 or fax resume to: (925) 942-0253 or e-mail at: office@crinc.com EOE

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Stable, loving families needed to provide a safe, loving, and supportive environment for children in foster care.

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Children need homes now! 25 years experience, training & support will help you make a difference. Call: 925/559-2156 or (800) 438-1121 ASPRA

FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY
seeks caring families.

Children Need You
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FRONT DESK/RECEIPT
2630 HWY. 4, busy chn. exp. req'd. Fax resume: 925/516-7413

FUNDRAISING
ADVOCATE/COORDINATOR
Anticipated Starting Salary: FT, \$30,400-\$33,300
#21-002

RESP: Scheduling & production of direct mail campaigns; research & solicitation of \$50-\$100 gifts; membership, solicitation, organization of student alumni group; campus outreach & general correspondence; ECO College Degree & at least 3 yrs. of related exp. in print & media; excellent communication skills; see website: www.abcs.edu/hayward.edu/haywapp

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Administrative Asst. \$13/hr.
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E-mail: laurie@dmstone.com

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250 Help Wanted

INTERIOR DESIGNER
Benicia Interior Design Firm specializing in Commercial Design and Model Home Merchandising seeks creative candidate with Interior Design Degree & a minimum of 2 yrs. exp. AutoCAD exp. + great organizational skills + w/401(k). Salary negotiable. Apply in person at 1126 Broadway Plaza Walnut Creek.

250 Help Wanted

LANDSCAPE
Maintenance Workers
Several openings for F/T year round posts avail. w/ exp. dependable people w/ exp. in equip. operation. The regular work week is Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm. The pay range is \$12.22 to \$16.50/hour, plus benefits available after 90 days.

250 Help Wanted

Qualified Tree Workers
F/T year round posts avail. Must have a min. of 2 yrs. of verifiable exp. in Aerial Lift Truck exp. is essential. The regular work week is Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm. The pay range is \$12.22 to \$16.50/hour, plus benefits available after 90 days.

250 Help Wanted

Irrigation Technician
F/T year round posts avail. Must have a min. of 2 yrs. of verifiable exp. performing installation, troubleshooting on commercial systems. Electrical and plumbing exp. + controller programming exp. pref. The regular work week is Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm. The pay range is \$12.22 to \$16.50/hour, plus benefits available after 90 days.

250 Help Wanted

Temporary Worker
F/T terms, positive avail. from April 1-October 31. Temporary workers perform basic landscaping maint. tasks such as mowing, trimming, blowing, raking and edging. Ability to follow directions & perform physical tasks. Must be hard working & dependable. The regular work week is Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm. The pay range is \$10.34 per hr. No benefits with temporary positions.

250 Help Wanted

1ST NATIONWIDE MORTGAGE
Send resume to: MCCA CO. Credit, Pratt & Associates Fax: 925-447-4894 or mail to 160 Franklin St., #200, Oakland, CA 94607. E-mail: mcca@pratt.com. We are an EOE. Pre-employment physical & drug screening is req'd. for all applicants, along with a valid CDL, good DWI rec.

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Workers' Compensation Claims Supervisor
One full-time position available.
*Salary range: \$31,524.69 - \$5,973.83 mo.
Must have at least two years prior Claims Supervisor experience.

250 Help Wanted

Workers' Compensation Claims Examiner
One full-time position available.
*Salary range: \$31,524.69 - \$3,883.84 mo.
Must have at least one year prior Claims Examining experience.

250 Help Wanted

Loss Prevention & Safety Analyst
One full-time position available.
*Salary range: \$31,524.69 - \$4,280.49 mo.
Experience in the field of Safety is required.

250 Help Wanted

*All permanent positions also include \$615 - \$645/mo. for purchase of benefits through IRC-125 plan.

250 Help Wanted

Workers' Compensation Claims Assistant
One or more full-time or part-time temporary positions available for a minimum period of 2 months.
Salary range: \$14 - \$21 hour

250 Help Wanted

For job descriptions, information about the agency and to request an application, please visit our website at www.cccsig.org or call our job hotline at 925-942-3241. EOE.

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At Hills, our mission is to serve readers by keeping our community connection strong. In an era dominated by high-tech living, we think it's important to keep you in touch with your own unique and wonderful neighborhood. That's why our coverage is focused on local news, local sports, local people, local events - in short, what's happening in your world. On your street. Day in and day out, our reporters work long and hard to bring you the kind of news you can use.

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Warming up to some lobster pie

ASSOCIATED PRESS

For this recipe, you can use fresh frozen lobster meat to bake under the mashed potato crusty top. It's a warming treat, literally — and figuratively, with its built-in reminder of the beach.

Lobster is a healthful and lean protein, suitable for a low-fat diet. The ingredients and seasonings of this recipe give the seafood a hearty context, and preparation is simple.

The recipe is included in the collection of some 40 published in "Cooking Maine Lobster: There's More Than One Way..." (Maine Lobster Promotion Council, 1997, \$16.95 paperback). Fresh or frozen lobster in various forms is available year nationwide.

Before you begin to cook, make sure you have at hand a pastry bag with star tip, and an ovenproof casserole or baking dish.

Lobster Pie

1 1/2 pounds potatoes, peeled and quartered
2 egg yolks, beaten
2 tablespoons butter
1/2 cup 1 percent low-fat milk
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
2 tablespoons chopped chives
Salt and white pepper to taste
1 pound lobster meat, fresh or frozen, sliced into bite-size pieces

8 ounces canned creamed corn

Place potatoes in a 4- to 6-quart saucepan and cover with cold water; over moderately high heat bring to a boil. Continue boiling until potatoes are tender. Remove from heat, drain and mash in pan until lumps disappear. Add the egg yolks, butter, milk, mustard and chopped chives; stir until well blended and of a smooth consistency. Season to taste with salt and white pepper.

Preheat oven to 425 F.

Fit pastry bag with star tip and fill with mashed potato mixture. Butter inside of baking dish and lay lobster meat evenly over bottom. Cover meat with an even layer of creamed corn.

Pipe mashed potatoes evenly over creamed corn; bake pie in 425 F oven for 30 to 45 minutes or until crust is golden brown.

Makes 4 servings.

Nutrition information per 8-ounce serving: 278 cal., 29 g pro., 7 g fat, 32 g carbo., 153 mg chol., 295 mg sodium, 4 g dietary fiber.

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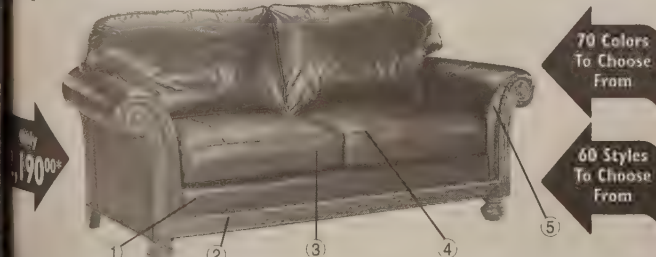
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The ultimate party dish (don't forget the saffron)

By Florence Fabricant
NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK — Last summer, I attended a wedding in a village in southwest France where a paella for 60 was made in a pan four feet wide set over a bonfire and stirred with a paddle.

A paella for hundreds of guests is not uncommon in Spain. But Americans often think of it as restaurant fare, too daunting to make from scratch, let alone for company.

In fact, paella is the ultimate one-dish main course for entertaining: saffron-scented rice in a huge pan studded with mussels, clams, shrimp, scallops, lobster, sausage, peas and piquillo peppers. What could be more impressive?

Paella has infinite advantages as party food. Much of it can be made ahead. It's best served buffet style. It can serve six, or 16. And it does not have to be piping hot. Think of it as a risotto without the stirring, but one designed, perhaps, by Joan Miro.

Shopping for the ingredients may be the hardest part, but if you can sauté, you can make paella. If you're good at planning, you'll only have the paella pan to wash after dinner. And in reality, whatever you make may be superior to what too many restaurants routinely turn out.

Eric Ripert, the chef at Le Bernardin, understands the paella effect. He saves it for entertaining at home in Sag Harbor, N.Y., where his paella often combines monkfish, shrimp, mussels and sausage.

Patricia Williams, the chef at Butterfield 81, on the Upper East Side, is another devotee of paella at home. "Entertaining is about being with your guests," she said. "And I have found that once the paella is finished, it stays warm for half an hour tented with foil, so I don't have to be in the kitchen the whole time." She makes hers with chicken, green beans and sausage, sometimes adding shrimp as well.

Paella is particularly accommodating for the home cook because it's so flexible. No single list of ingredients defines it.

Penelope Casas, an authority on Spanish food, gives more than 60 versions in her book "Paella! Spectacular Rice Dishes From Spain" (Henry Holt, 1999). Most of her recipes are traditional yet sound unusual, like one made with lamb, lentils and eggplant. In Spain today, she said, the dish usually has meat, poultry or seafood, but not a mixture. Mixed paellas, she explained, are only on tourist menus. "In Valencia, you won't find chorizo in a seafood paella because it will compete too much with the flavor of the seafood," she said.

I have a small Spanish cookbook that was printed in Madrid in 1912,

though, that includes one paella recipe made with ham, chicken, rabbit, crab, baby eels, conger eels, tripe, artichokes, peas, peppers and tomatoes in addition to the rice and saffron.

Paella originated in Valencia, the province on the Mediterranean coast, where most of Spain's rice is grown. History suggests that the original ingredients were gathered in the wild, and included rabbit and snails, not lobster or chorizo.

But no matter what traditionalists say, I have found that what American paella lovers want most is the sausage, and they're disappointed if they do not find it. Even if you give them lobster.

There's something about paella that inspires the personal touch, which may explain why there are so many recipes, even in Spain. I've added slivers of smoked tongue or serrano ham to a chicken paella, strewn capers on top or folded in fresh corn kernels.

I have even made cold paella and served it like a salad, in summer, preparing the saffron rice with peppers and diced sausage in advance. Just before serving, I spread it on an immense round platter and top it with chilled seafood in a vinaigrette dressing.

I also like to make paella that hints of cassoulet, with rabbit, duck confit, duck sausage and even some white beans. It's similar to the hunter's paella made with duck, quail and rabbit at Solera, a Spanish restaurant in Midtown with the most interesting list of paellas in the city. There's a black one made with squid and squid ink, and another with salt cod, chickpeas and piquillo peppers.

But a well-made restaurant paella is not easy to find; all the more reason to make it at home.

"Every other Spanish restaurant serves paella but we never did," said Mario Contacessi, an owner of Meigas, on Hudson Street, one of New York's newer and better Spanish restaurants. "We make risotto-style dishes in casseroles. Besides, you can't make a great paella here because the water is wrong."

It's true that there is plenty of bad paella in Manhattan, but the fact that New York's water doesn't taste the same as Valencia's is not the main reason. There are restaurants that prepare paella in a casserole instead of a flat pan, or bolster their stingy ration of costly saffron with turmeric or food coloring. (Beware a sunny yellow paella; the color should be somewhat muted, almost mustard.) Some use the wrong kind of rice, or shortchange the process by cooking the seafood separately and parking it on warm rice at the last minute.

However, interesting versions, authentic in their way, are now be-



A PAELLA FOR HUNDREDS OF GUESTS is not uncommon in Spain. But Americans often think of the dish as restaurant fare, too daunting to make from scratch. In fact, paella is the ultimate one-dish main course for entertaining. This dish includes saffron-scented rice studded with mussels, clams, shrimp, scallops, lobster, sausage, peas and piquillo peppers. Eric Ripert, the chef at the Le Bernardin in New York, cooks paella at home.

ing served at several of the new-wave Latin restaurants. The paella tradition extends to countries where Spain has had an influence, like parts of the Caribbean and the Philippines. And so Patria, in the Flatiron district, sometimes offers a Puerto Rican-style green rice with seafood in a paella pan; Calle Ocho, on the Upper West Side, has a simple mushroom paella; and Chicama, near Union Square, does a Peruvian arroz con mariscos, with cilantro and jumbo shrimp.

Some chefs, including Bobby

see PAELLA on page 4

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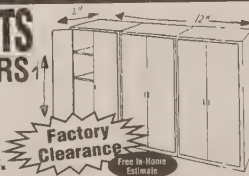
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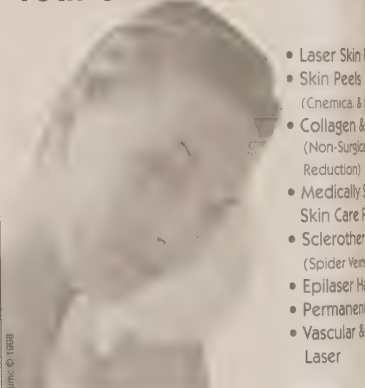


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Paella

FROM PAGE 2

Play at Bolo and Douglas Rodriguez at Pipa, serve aoli as a condiment for paella, a nice authentic touch that I'll keep in mind.

Regardless of the variations, preparing paella involves three basic steps.

First, the vegetables and meat are sautéed in olive oil. Then, the rice is stirred in until it is coated; warm broth, usually with saffron steeped in it, is added.

The last step is easy — just add the rest of the ingredients and let it cook. Although paella can be done entirely on top of the stove, it will cook more evenly if placed in a hot oven for the final 10 to 15 minutes, uncovered, with any quick-cooking seafood spread on top.

When the paella is removed from the oven, the rice should be slightly underdone. A tent of foil is then placed on top, and the paella allowed to rest at least 10 minutes, so the rice can finish cooking.

But do not attempt to make paella without the proper pan and the proper rice.

The pan should be fairly shallow, with a flat bottom, sloping sides and two handles. It should be made of steel, not stainless and not thick. A thin, traditional pan imported from Spain will produce an even rate of evaporation so that the rice, which is the star of the show, will be moist but not soupy, and just plump and tender enough. The gorgeous contents make the simplest pan enough of a showpiece to bring to the table.

A fancy heavy-duty pan, often sold with a cover, is not necessary. The pan should not have a non-stick finish. A paella cooked in a classic pan usually does not stick very much anyway, and the rice that may adhere and become crusty is actually a treat. A skillet that is not non-stick or too heavy can be used instead of an authentic pan.

A good pan runs \$20 to \$40. It

should be washed and dried, then coated lightly with vegetable oil before using. It will darken with use, but a coating of oil each time it's washed and dried will prevent rust.

The rule of thumb when it comes to paella pans is that half the diameter equals approximately the number of servings. Burners on most home stoves can accommodate a pan no larger than 13 inches across; to make a larger quantity, use two pans.

As for the rice, it must be short grain. Spanish rice, labeled bomba, Calasparra or Valencia, are best, although Goya brand short grain and even Italian arborio rice can be used. Depending on the other ingredients, you should calculate one-third to one-half cup of rice per person. Usually twice the quantity of liquid as rice is needed.

Not all Spanish paellas are made with saffron, but when it's used it should be La Mancha saffron from Spain, which has a deep burgundy color. It should be in filaments, not ground, and should always be steeped in warm stock.

As for the other ingredients, like paprika or piquillo peppers, look for Spanish brands. Pans and rice are available from sites like tienda.com, tablespan.com, ethnicrocer.com and chefshop.com on the Internet.

Spanish food aficionados nibbling their tapas may grumble that there's more to the cuisine than paella, even a properly made one. That's like saying Placido Domingo isn't the only tenor in town.

But when it comes to the leading role, paella, like Domingo, gets the bravos every time.

Hunter's paella

Adapted from Solera

Time: 2 hours

- 1 rabbit, cut up
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 5 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- ½ cup dry sherry
- 5 cups chicken or duck stock, or a mixture
- ¼ teaspoon saffron threads
- 2 quails, quartered
- 1 medium onion, minced

- ½ medium red bell pepper, cored, seeded and minced
- ½ medium green bell pepper, cored, seeded and minced
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 sprig each fresh thyme and rosemary
- 1 teaspoon sweet paprika, preferably Spanish
- 4 ripe plum tomatoes, minced
- 3 cups short-grain rice, preferably Spanish
- Meat from 2 duck confit legs (available in specialty stores), skinned, in chunks
- 1 tablespoon minced parsley.

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Season rabbit with salt and pepper. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in sauté pan. Add rabbit and brown. Stir in sherry, cover and place in oven 20 minutes, until rabbit is cooked. Remove meat from pan and allow to cool.

2. Add stock to cooking liquid from rabbit. Add saffron, bring to a simmer, then remove from heat.

3. Heat remaining oil in 17-inch paella pan over medium heat. You may have to place pan on two burners, or use two smaller pans. Add quails and brown.

Set aside. Add onion, green and red pepper, garlic, bay leaf and herb sprigs to pan. Cook very slowly, stirring from time to time, until lightly browned, about 15 minutes.

4. While vegetables are cooking, remove rabbit meat from bones in large chunks.

5. Add paprika and tomatoes to paella pan and cook until most liquid in pan has evaporated, about 10 minutes. Add rice and sauté about 2 minutes. Add stock to pan, stir and simmer 10 minutes.

Tuck pieces of rabbit, quail and duck into rice. Place in oven and bake 15 minutes. Remove, cover loosely with foil and set aside 5 minutes. Strew with parsley and serve.

Yield: 8 servings.

Seafood paella

Adapted from Eric Ripert

Time: 1 ¼ hours

- 6 cups stock, half chicken and half seafood or shrimp

- ½ tablespoon saffron threads
- 12 monkfish medallions, about 1 ½ pounds total
- 4 ½ tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 onion, chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, chopped
- ¼ pound chorizo, skin removed, sliced ¼-inch thick
- 3 cups short-grain rice, preferably Spanish
- 2 cups fresh green peas
- 1 small red bell pepper, seared over flame to blacken skin, then peeled and cut in strips
- 1 small green bell pepper, seared over flame, peeled and cut in strips
- 18 large shrimp, peeled and deveined, about 1 pound
- 1 pound medium-size mussels
- ¼ cup thinly sliced scallions.

1. Place stock in saucepan and bring to a simmer. Remove from heat and add saffron. Set aside. Rub monkfish with ½ tablespoon olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Set aside.

2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Heat remaining oil in 17-inch paella pan, placed over 2 burners if necessary, or divide between two pans. Add onion and garlic and cook over low heat until soft. Add chorizo and sauté briefly. Add rice and stir to coat.

3. Add stock and stir. Simmer 10 minutes. Check seasoning, adding salt and pepper if necessary. Stir in peas and place strips of peppers, alternating colors, around pan like spokes on a wheel.

Place shrimp and monkfish around pan; add mussels, hinge-side down.

4. Place in oven and bake until shrimp and monkfish are cooked and mussels have opened, about 15 minutes. Discard any unopened mussels.

Remove from oven, cover loosely with foil and set aside 5 minutes.

Scatter scallions on top and serve.


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Certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery
member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons
PLASTIC SURGERY SEMINAR
Date: **Thursday, February 8th**
Time: **7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**
Place: **1855 San Miguel Dr. #4, Walnut Creek**
Topic: **Facial Rejuvenation (Surgical and non-surgical)**

Dr. Aycock will be introducing a revolution in wrinkle reduction. **Mite**, the first non-invasive laser system cleared by the FDA for reducing wrinkles, with no downtime. Other procedures to be discussed will be the mid-face lift, endoscopic brow lift, eyelid lift, lip augmentation, facial implants, botox and collagen treatments. Pre and Post-operative slide presentation.
Robert G. Aycock, M.D.
Please call early to reserve seating, as space is limited.
(925) 937-8377
website: www.aycockmd.com

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Be sure to pick up the special Home & Garden Section on Thursday February 1st, in the ANG Newspapers and Valley Times.

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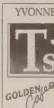


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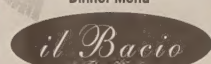
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